



MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUP 12¢

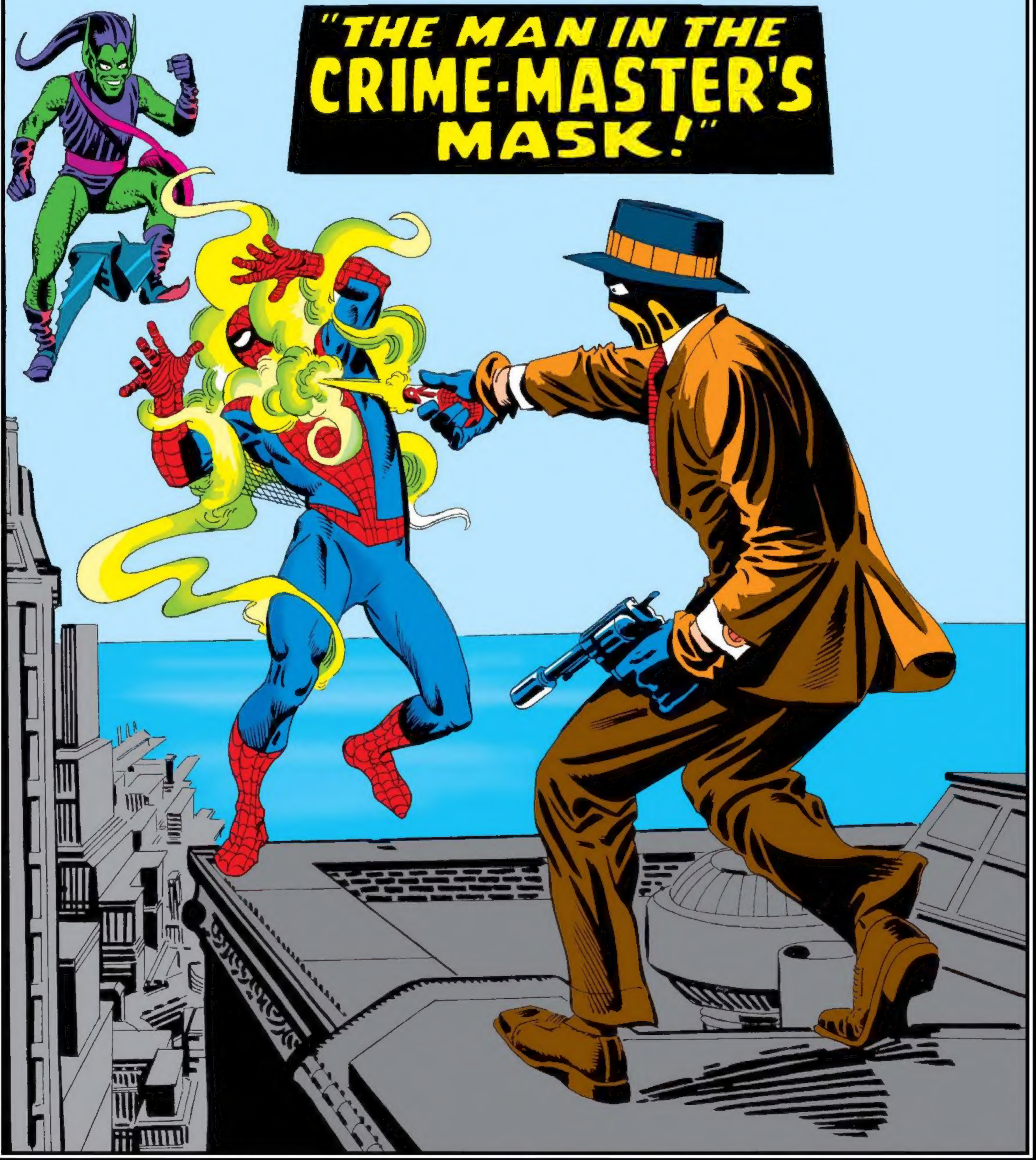
# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

IND.

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

26  
JULY

**"THE MAN IN THE  
CRIME-MASTER'S  
MASK!"**







# THE MYSTERY OF "THE MAN IN The CRIME-MASTER'S MASK!"

BOTH THE CRIME-  
MASTER AND THE  
GREEN GOBLIN  
KNOW EACH OTHER'S  
TRUE IDENTITIES!!

*But...*

WHAT STRANGE SECRET  
IS KNOWN ONLY TO  
FREDERICK  
FOSWELL ??



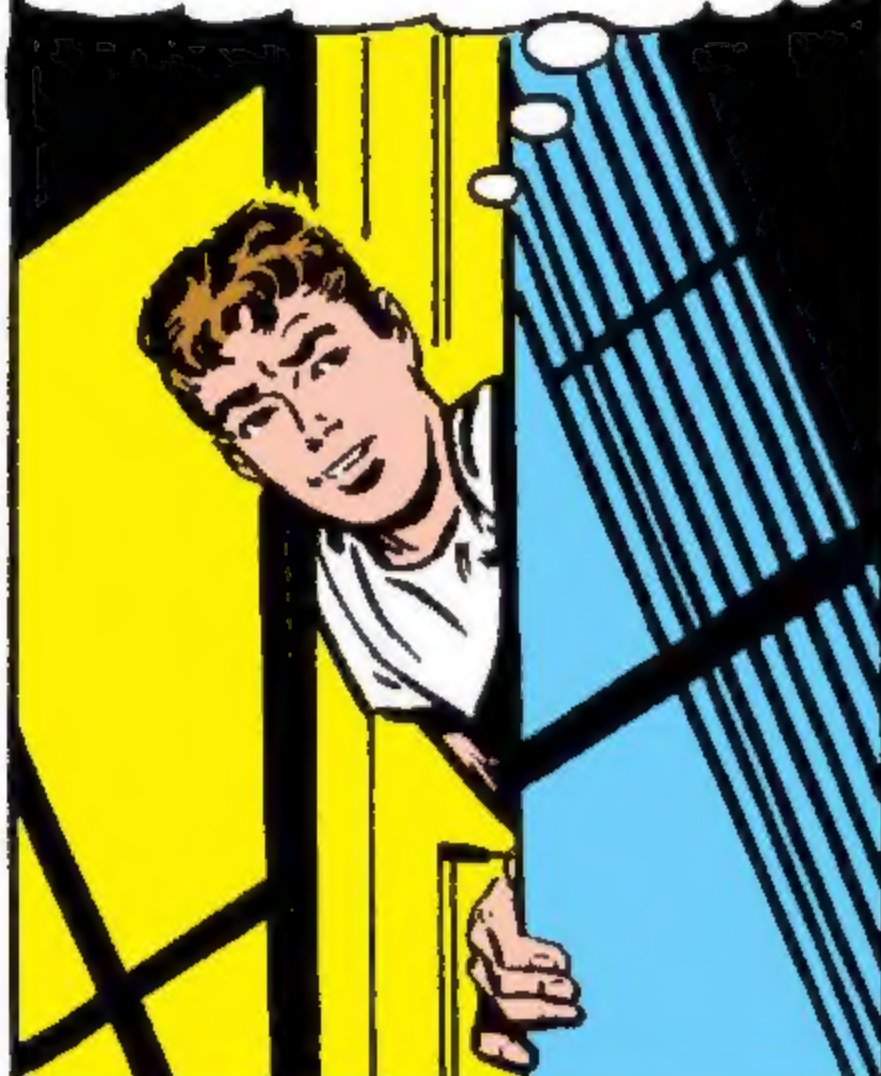
CAN SPIDER-MAN  
SOLVE THIS DARK  
RIDDLE, CLOAKED  
WITHIN A GRIM  
PUZZLE, HIDDEN  
BENEATH THE  
SHADOWS OF A  
DEADLY ENIGMA??

STEALTHILY SCRIPTED BY.... **STAN LEE**  
PAINSTAKINGLY PLOTTED AND  
DRAWN BY... **STEVE DITKO**  
LOVINGLY LETTERED BY... **S. ROSEN**



WITH THE COMING OF NIGHT, A SILENT TEEN-AGER FURTIVELY OPENS HIS BEDROOM DOOR...

NOW IS MY CHANCE TO FIND THE COSTUME AUNT MAY TOOK FROM ME!\*



\*AS SHOWN IN **SPIDER-MAN** # 25 ... STAN.

I CAN TELL BY HER STEADY BREATHING THAT SHE'S SOUND ASLEEP!

SO FAR, SO GOOD!



IT'S NOT HERE IN THE TRASH CAN, SO SHE COULDN'T HAVE THROWN IT AWAY YET!

IT MUST STILL BE SOMEWHERE IN THE HOUSE!



I'VE TRIED EVERY CLOSET AND CUPBOARD! THERE ISN'T A SIGN OF IT! PERHAPS, IN THE ATTIC...



NOPE! NOT HERE, EITHER!

THE ONLY PLACE LEFT TO LOOK IS IN HER OWN ROOM! BUT I CAN'T GO IN THERE TILL THE MORNING!



WHAT A PICKLE TO BE IN! A **SPIDER-MAN** WITHOUT HIS COSTUME IS LIKE A BEATLE WITHOUT HIS HAIR! IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN TO *ME*!



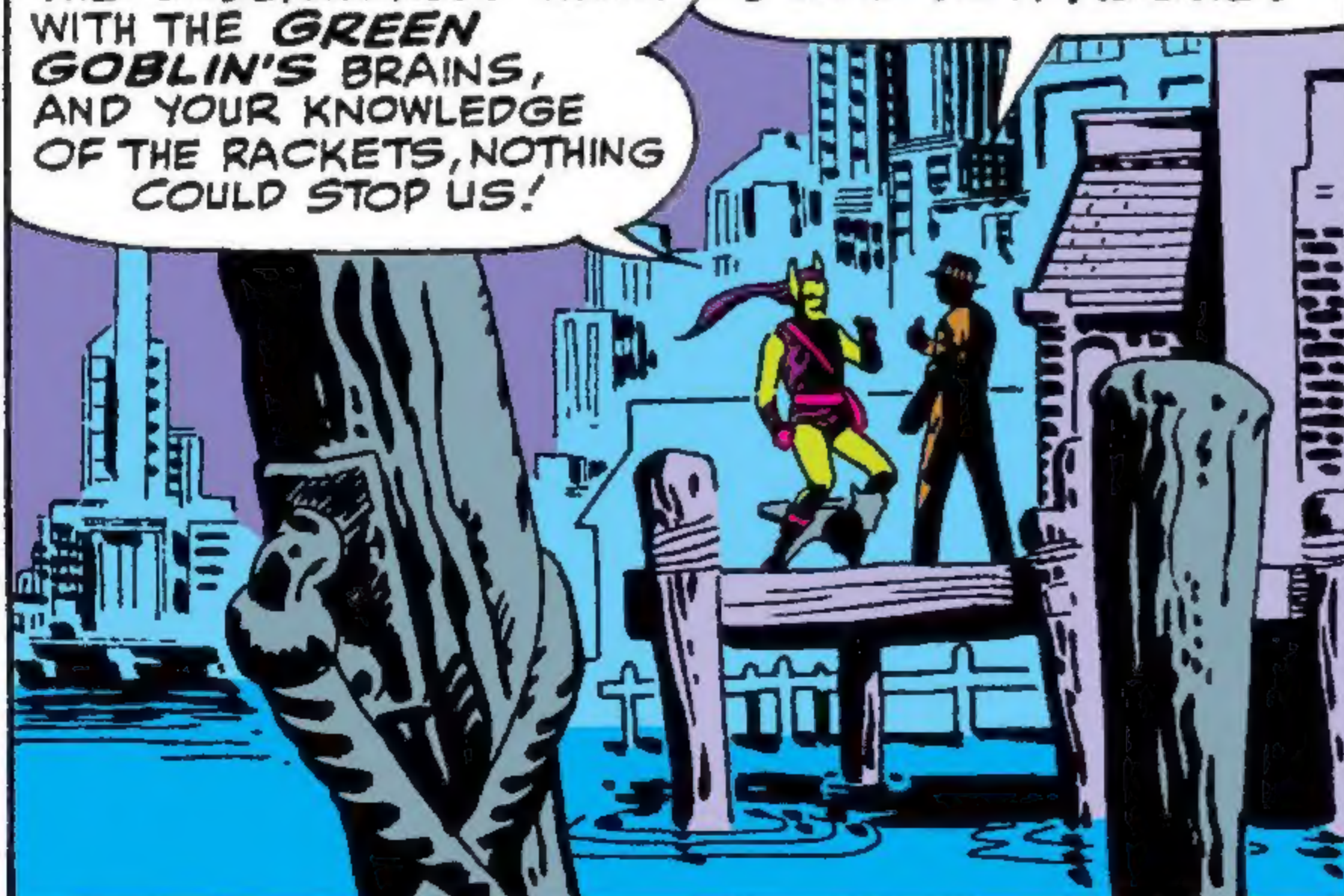
I WISH I KNEW WHAT JONAH JAMESON DID WITH MY OTHER COSTUME! THE ONE I TRICKED HIM WITH ON THAT ROOFTOP! OH, WELL, I'LL WORRY ABOUT IT TOMORROW!



BUT, THERE ARE STILL **MORE** WORRIES IN STORE FOR THE SLEEPING PETER PARKER! FOR, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, A MYSTERIOUS **MEETING** IS TAKING PLACE...

YOU **CAN'T** BACK OUT NOW! WE AGREED THAT I'D HELP YOU TAKE OVER THE UNDERWORLD! THEN, WITH THE **GREEN GOBLIN'S** BRAINS, AND YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE RACKETS, NOTHING COULD STOP US!

FORGET IT! I DECIDED I DON'T **NEED** YOU! I'M THE **CRIME-MASTER**! I CAN DO IT **ALONE**!



BUT I REVEALED MY **TRUE IDENTITY** TO YOU AS PART OF THE DEAL! IF YOU THINK I'LL LET YOU GET AWAY WITH ...!

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN **DO**! TRY TO **STOP** ME, AND I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THE **WORLD** KNOWS WHO YOU REALLY ARE! NOW GET LOST! I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO!



UNLESS YOU'RE WILLING TO TAKE **ORDERS** FROM ME! I CAN ALWAYS USE ANOTHER **FLUNKY**! HOW ABOUT IT, GOBLIN?





YOU'VE **OUT-SMARTED** YOURSELF THIS TIME! REMEMBER, I KNOW WHO **YOU** ARE, TOO! SO YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE **LAST** OF ME!

HE'S BLUFFING! HE CAN'T EXPOSE **ME** ANY MORE THAN I CAN EXPOSE **HIM**! IT'S A **STALEMATE**!



LATER, AT THE HIDEOUT OF ONE OF THE CITY'S MANY UNDERWORLD MOBS ...

SINCE THE POLICE HAVE HAD THE HEAT ON US, WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PULL A CAPER FOR WEEKS!

AND AS IF **THAT** AIN'T BAD ENOUGH, WE NEVER KNOW WHEN **SPIDER-MAN** WILL SNARE US IN THAT **BLASTED WEB** OF HIS!



WELL, **ONE** THING'S FOR SURE... WE'VE GOT TO PULL A JOB SOON, OR DISBAND!

AHH, I'M JUST IN TIME!



THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO LEAVE MY CALLING CARD... NOW, WHILE THEY'RE CONFUSED AND DISSATISFIED!



HEY! LOOK OUT! THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE WINDOW!

HE'S THROWIN' SOMETHING!! **DUCK!!** IT'S A **BOMB!!**



**NO...** HOLD IT! IT BROKE OPEN! THERE'S NOTHING INSIDE BUT A **NOTE**!

**GIMME!** I'LL READ IT! "THIS IS YOUR FIRST AND LAST NOTICE! FROM NOW ON I'M TAKING OVER THE RACKETS! DEFEY ME, AND IT WILL NOT BE A FALSE ALARM NEXT TIME!" IT'S SIGNED... THE **CRIME-MASTER**!

THE **CRIME-MASTER**?!!



IT WENT AS SMOOTH AS CLOCKWORK! BUT, THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING! BEFORE I'M DONE, THE ENTIRE UNDERWORLD WILL TREMBLE AT THE MERE MENTION OF THE NAME **CRIME-MASTER**!



MINUTES LATER, IN A ROOM ABOVE A PARKED AUTOMOBILE WHICH THE CRIME-MASTER HAS JUST WALKED AWAY FROM...



WHO IN BLAZES CAN BE PHONING ME NOW?

DON'T SAY A WORD! LOOK OUT YOUR WINDOW AT YOUR CAR WHICH IS DOWNSTAIRS! KEEP WATCHING IT!



IT BLEW UP! SAY, WHO DO YA THINK...?  
QUIET! THIS IS THE CRIME-MASTER! I'M TAKING OVER FROM NOW ON!



THE CRIME-MASTER!!?

WITHIN HOURS, GANG LEADERS ALL OVER THE CITY ARE CONTACTED BY THE MASKED MYSTERY MAN WHOSE NAME BEGINS TO FILL THEM WITH A STRANGE APPREHENSION...



HE MUST BE SOME KINDA HOTSHOT IF HE DARES TO CHALLENGE ALL OF US AT ONCE!

THE CRIME-MASTER! WHO KNOWS? MAYBE HE'S JUST WHAT WE NEED!

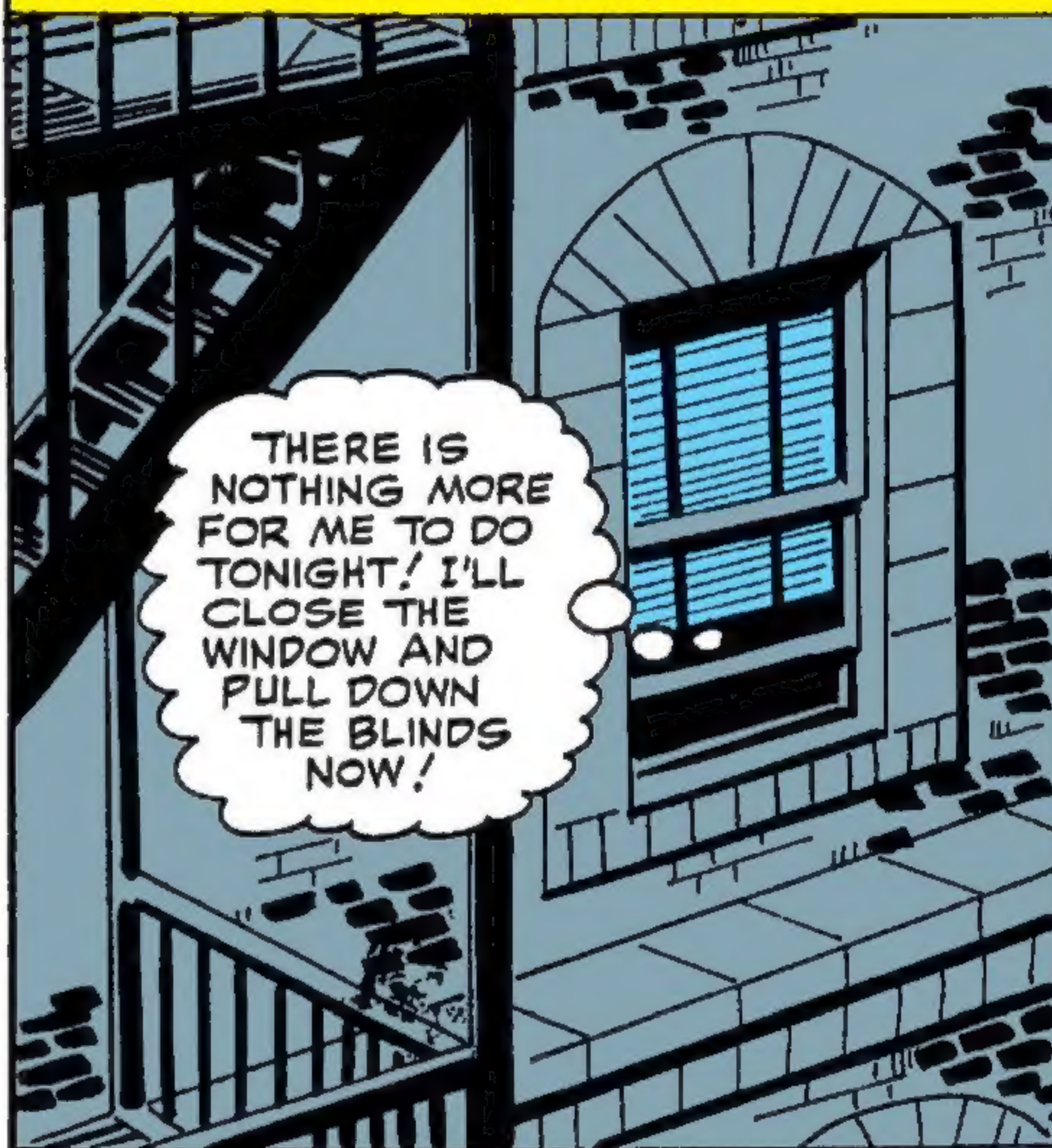
NAH! I SAY WE SHOULD FIGHT 'IM! NOBODY'S TAKIN' OVER MY MOB!

HOW DID HE KNOW WHERE TO CONTACT US? HOW'D HE KNOW WHO WE ALL ARE? HE MUST HAVE THE GOODS ON US!

ME, I DON'T LIKE IT!

HE MUST BE SOME-ONE FROM THE RACKETS! HE COULD EVEN BE ONE OF US! BUT, HE'S DANGEROUS! HE KNOWS TOO MUCH!

THEN, JUST BEFORE DAWN BREAKS OVER THE SPRAWLING METROPOLIS...



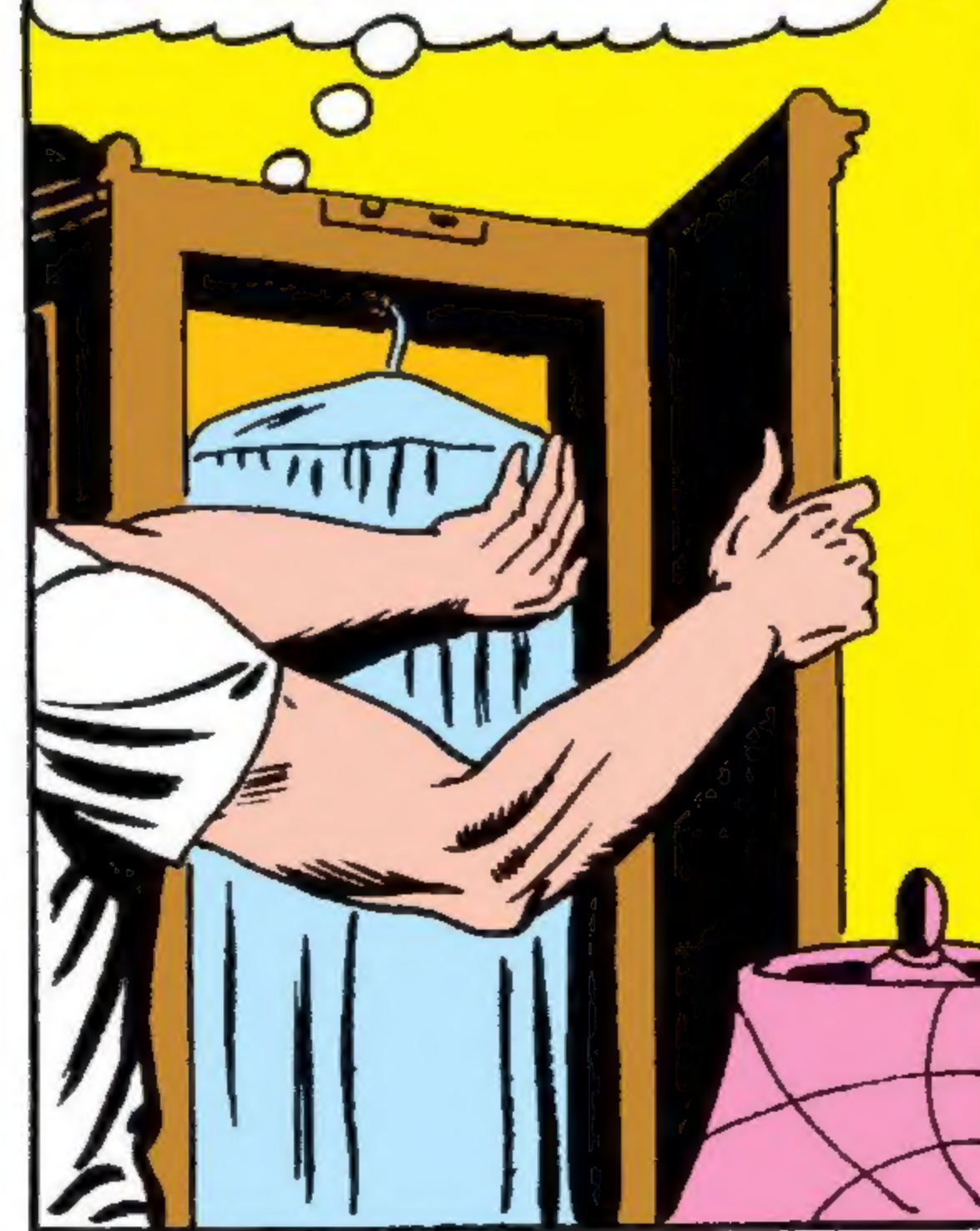
THERE IS NOTHING MORE FOR ME TO DO TONIGHT! I'LL CLOSE THE WINDOW AND PULL DOWN THE BLINDS NOW!

THE GAME I'M PLAYING IS A DANGEROUS ONE! ONE ERROR... ONE MISCALCULATION... COULD MEAN MY VERY LIFE! BUT, I CAN'T BACK OUT NOW!

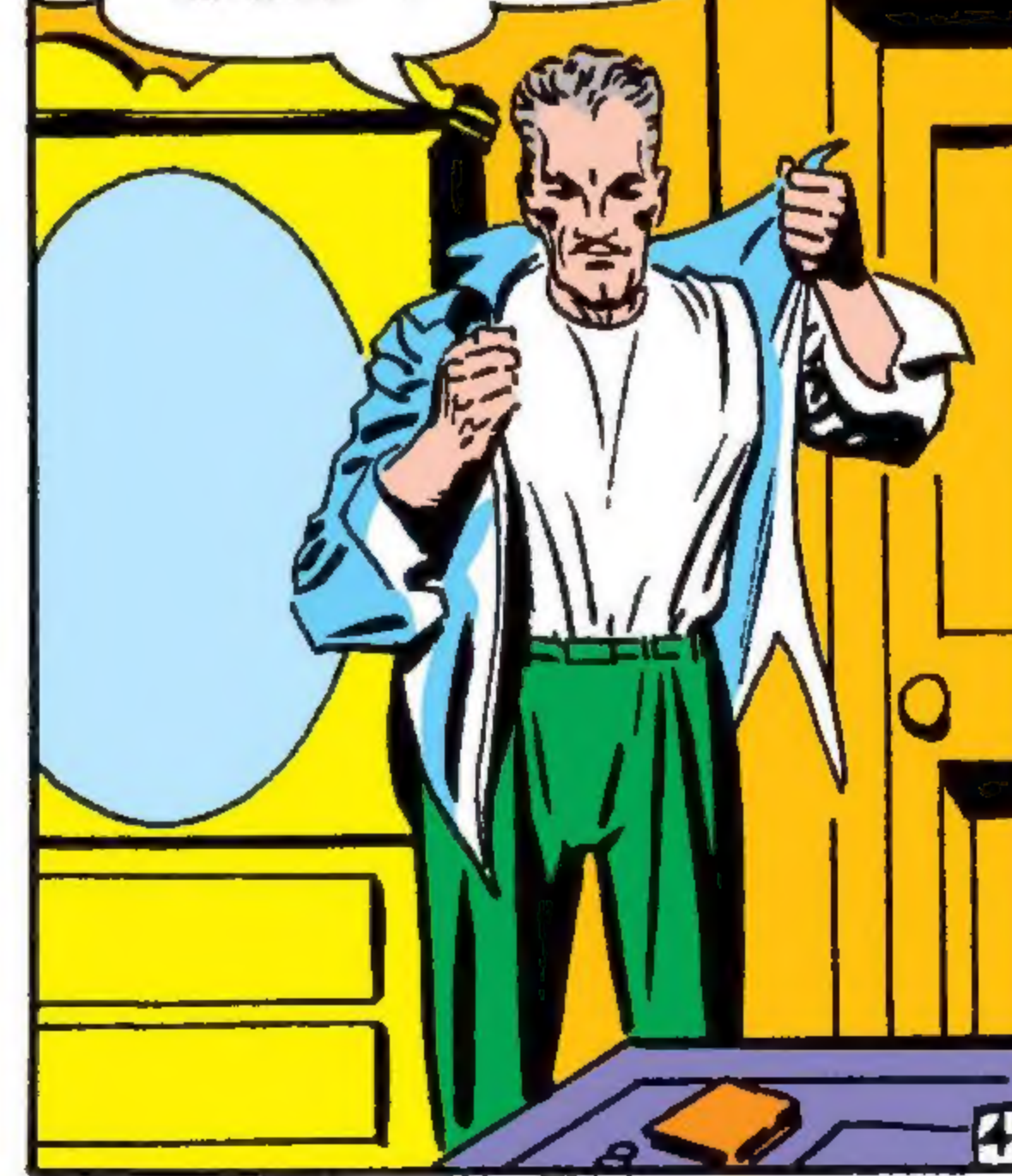


I'LL SWITCH ON THE LIGHT AND CHANGE CLOTHES!

MY SPECIAL "WORKING CLOTHES" SHOULD BE SAFE ENOUGH HERE IN THIS HOLLOWED-OUT PORTION OF MY BEDROOM CLOSET!



AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR **FREDERICK FOSWELL** TO RETURN TO HIS JOB AS NEWS REPORTER FOR J. JONAH JAMESON'S "DAILY BUGLE"!





OKAY, NOW THAT EVERYTHING'S THOROUGHLY CONFUSED, LET'S RETURN TO PETER PARKER'S HOUSE AND START PICKING UP THE PIECES...

MAYBE IF I BRING THE CONVERSATION AROUND TO MY COSTUME, AUNT MAY WILL MENTION WHAT SHE DID WITH IT...

I GUESS IT WAS SILLY OF ME TO TRY TO WEAR A SPIDER-MAN COSTUME TO THAT PARTY, AUNT MAY! OH, BY THE WAY, WHERE DID YOU...?

LET'S NOT DISCUSS IT ANY MORE, PETER DEAR! WE'LL CONSIDER THE MATTER FINISHED!



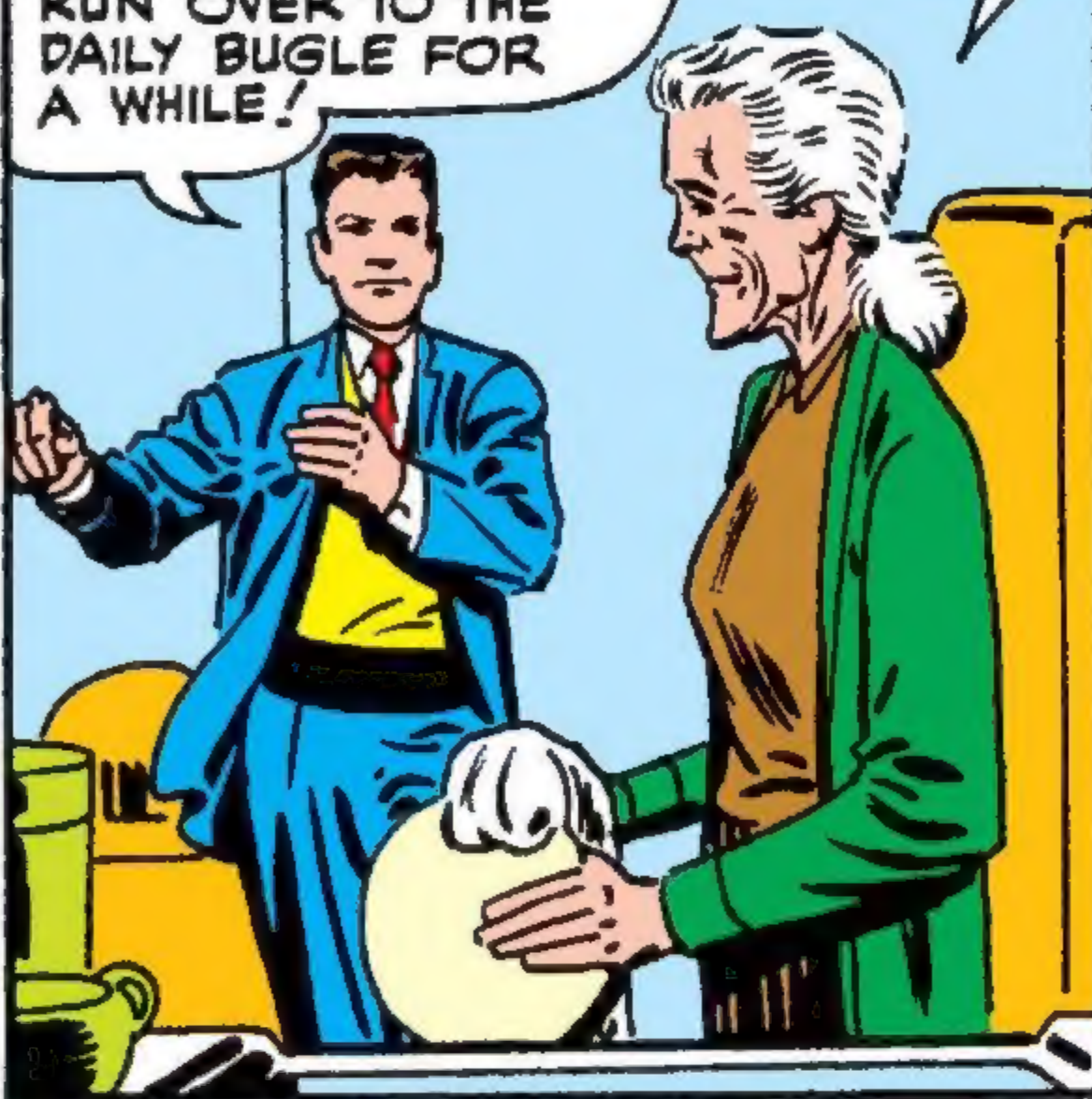
JUST MY LUCK! SHE THINKS SHE'S BEING NICE TO ME, BUT NOW I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT OUTFIT AGAIN!



WELL, THERE'S STILL THE OTHER SPIDEY COSTUME WHICH JONAH JAMESON HAD! I HOPE I CAN GET THAT ONE FROM HIM!

SEE YOU LATER, AUNT MAY! I'M GOING TO RUN OVER TO THE DAILY BUGLE FOR A WHILE!

ALL RIGHT, DEAR! HAVE A NICE DAY... AND COME HOME BY BUS IF IT RAINS!



NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, WE FIND...

WELL, WELL! HELLO, PETER! HAVE YOU ANY NEW PLANS TO CATCH SPIDER-MAN TODAY??

UH-OH! SHE'S STILL ANGRY BECAUSE SHE THINKS I HELPED JONAH IN HIS FIGHT WITH SPIDEY!\*

AW, C'MON, BETTY! HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA HOLD A GRUDGE?



\*SPIDER-MAN #25..STAN.

I AM NOT HOLDING A GRUDGE! AFTER ALL, IF YOU WANT TO BE PALSY-WALSY WITH JONAH JAMESON, THAT'S YOUR BUSINESS!

AW, RATS! FIRST YOU WRITE LETTERS TO NED LEEDS BECAUSE YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HIM! THEN, YOU WORRY ABOUT SPIDER-MAN! HOW ABOUT HAVING A GOOD WORD FOR PETER PARKER!?



YOU MEAN THE PETER PARKER WHO'S BEEN DATING LIZ ALLAN?? AND WHO HAS ANOTHER GIRL FRIEND WHOM HE'S NEVER EVEN MENTIONED TO ME? NAMELY MARY JANE WATSON!!

BUT, I DON'T EVEN KNOW MARY JANE WATSON!



REALLY? THEN HOW COME YOUR AUNT MAY INTRODUCED ME TO HER WHEN I WAS AT YOUR HOUSE LAST TIME? IT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH TO FIND LIZ ALLAN COMING TO SEE YOU, ALSO! HOW MANY MORE GIRL FRIENDS DO YOU HAVE??

LOOK! I CAN'T HELP IT IF MY AUNT HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET ME TO DATE MARY JANE! I NEVER EVEN SAW HER!



OH, NO? WELL, YOU OUGHT TO OPEN UP YOUR EYES, CASANOVA! SHE'S VERY HARD TO MISS SEEING!

BOY! THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN A HOT-TEMPERED FEMALE IS A JEALOUS HOT-TEMPERED FEMALE!

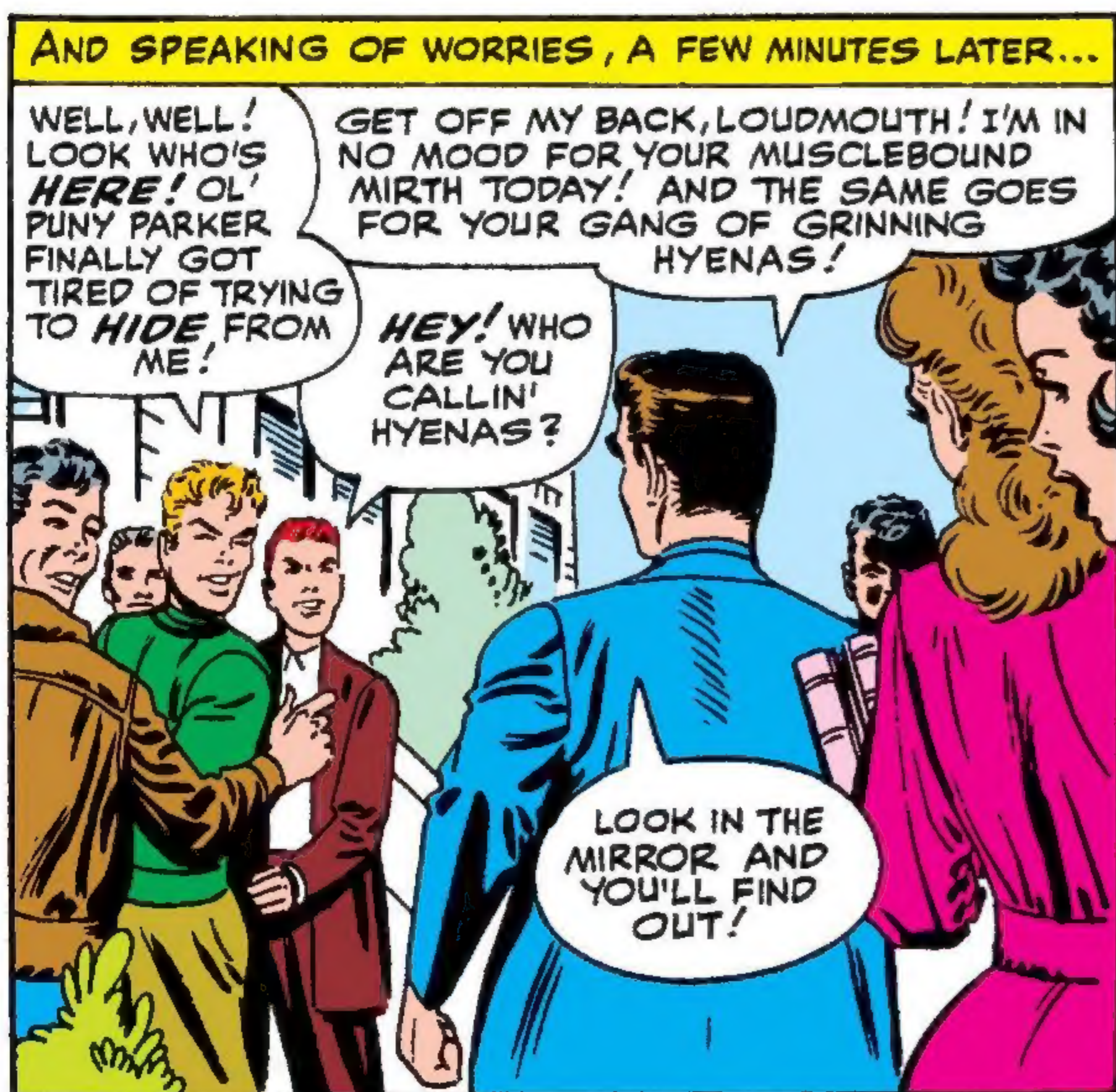
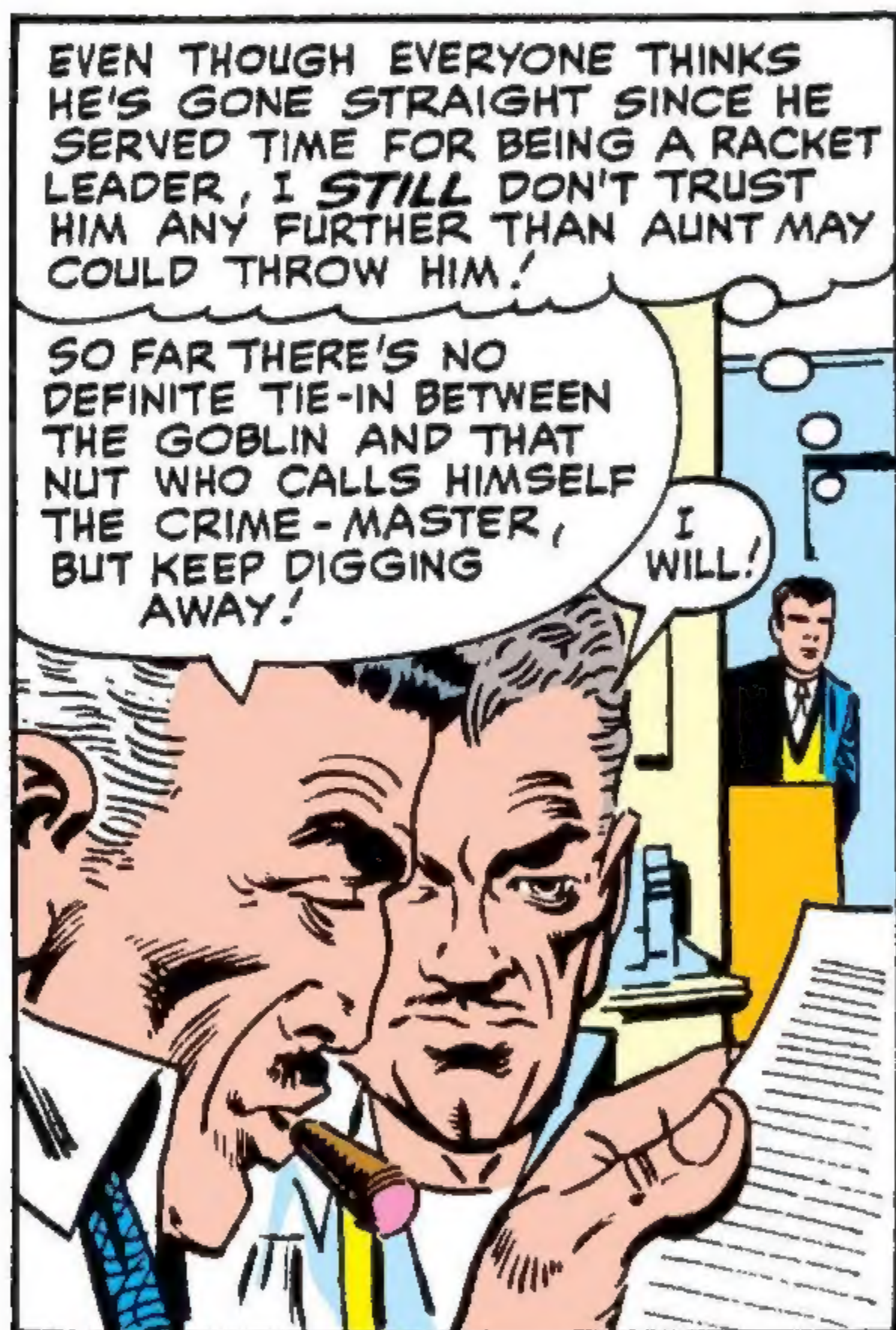
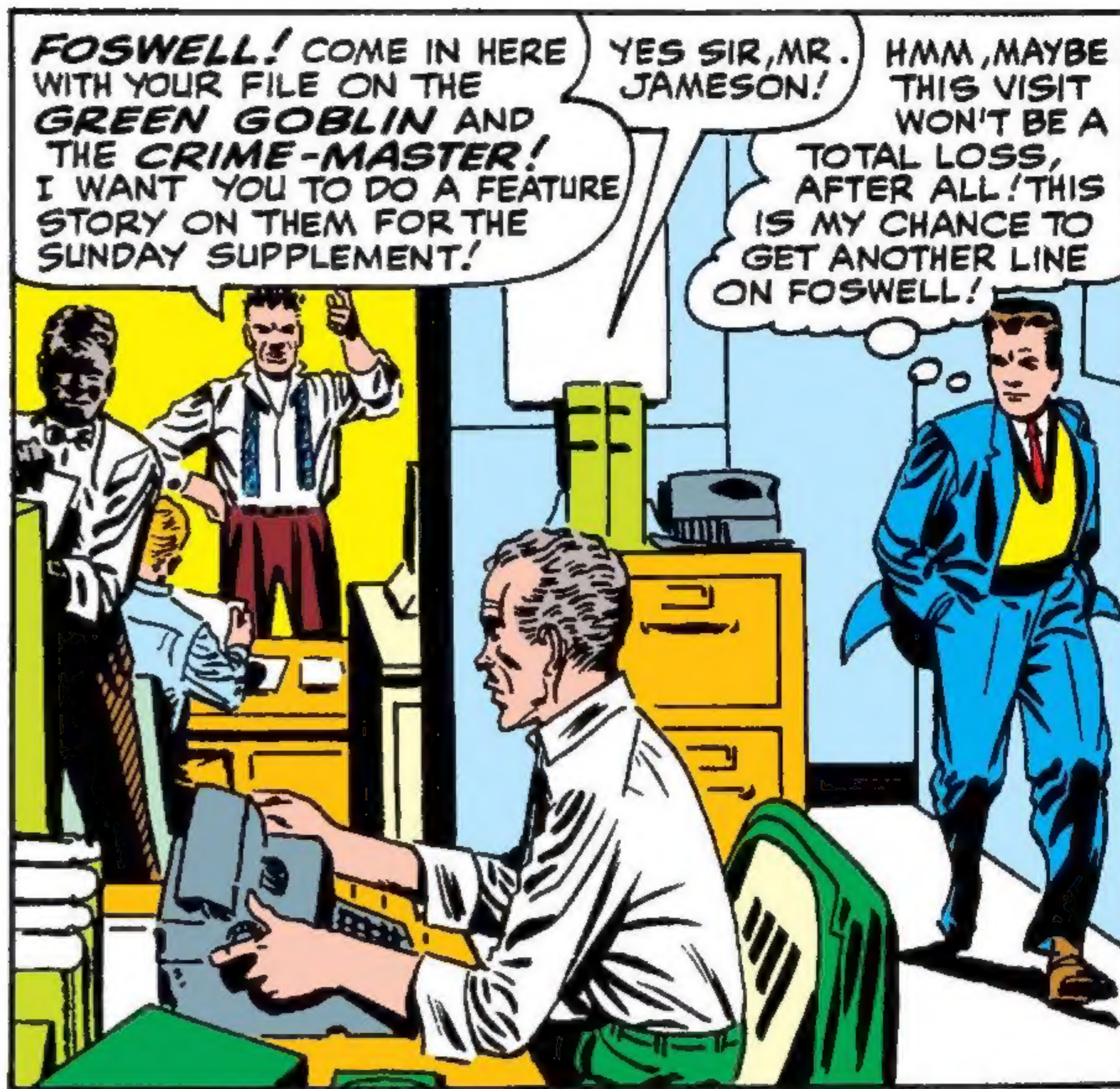
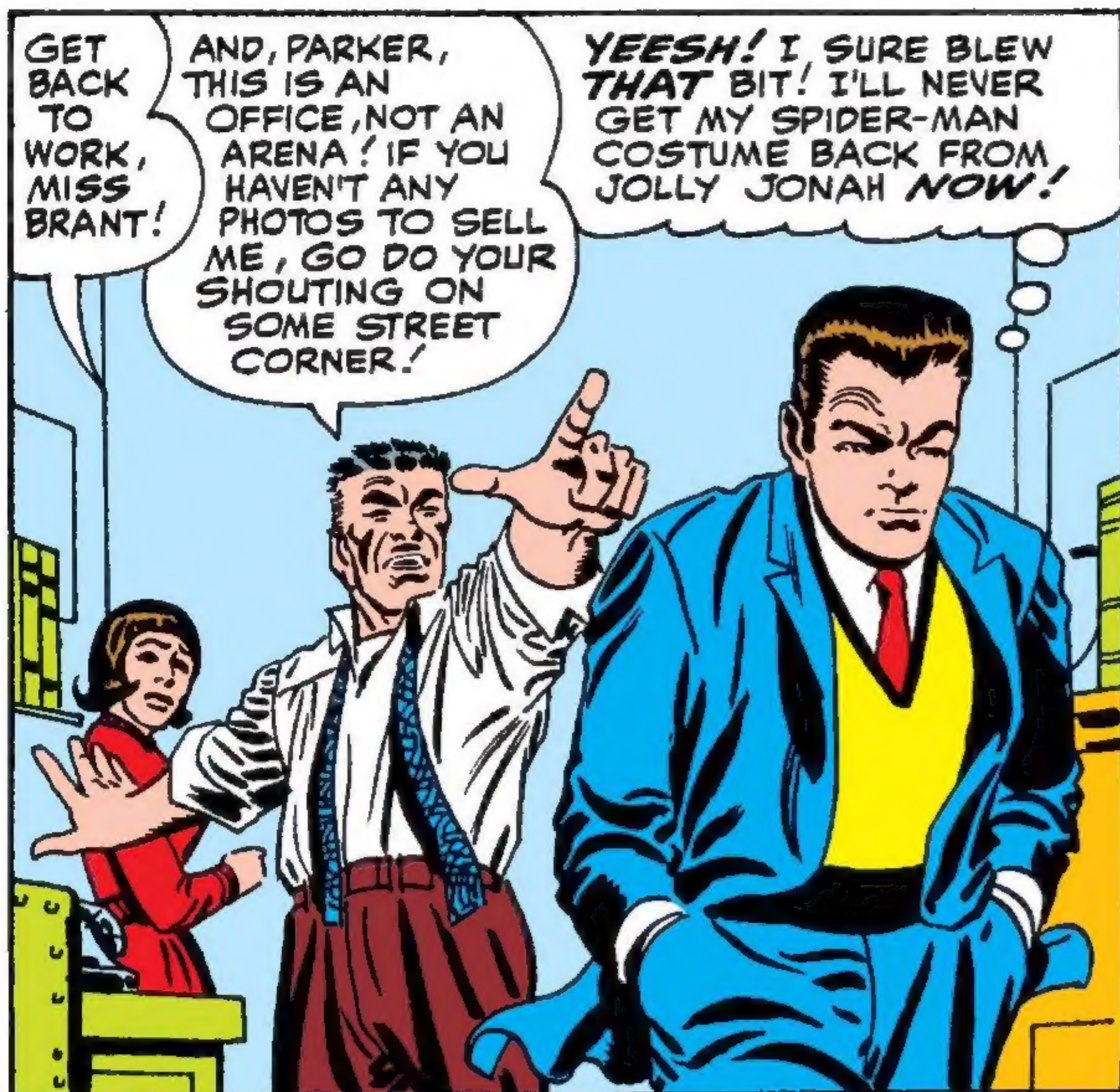
WHAT IN SAM HILL IS ALL THE RACKET OUT HERE??

OH, BROTHER! IT'S JONAH!

AND, ANOTHER THING....!





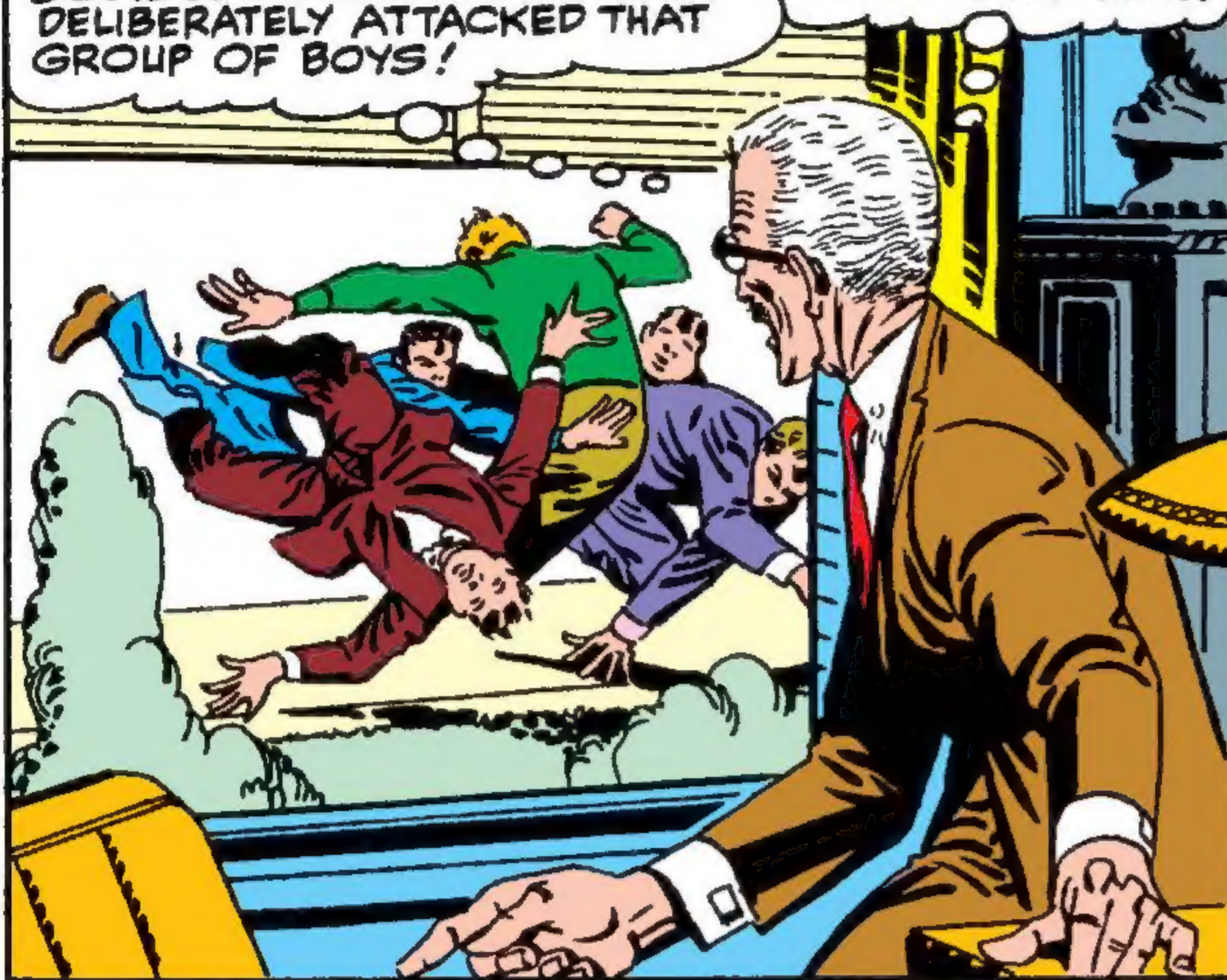




AND, AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, THE PRINCIPAL TURNS TOWARDS THE WINDOW AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AND SEES ...

I'D NEVER HAVE BELIEVED IT! PETER PARKER DELIBERATELY ATTACKED THAT GROUP OF BOYS!

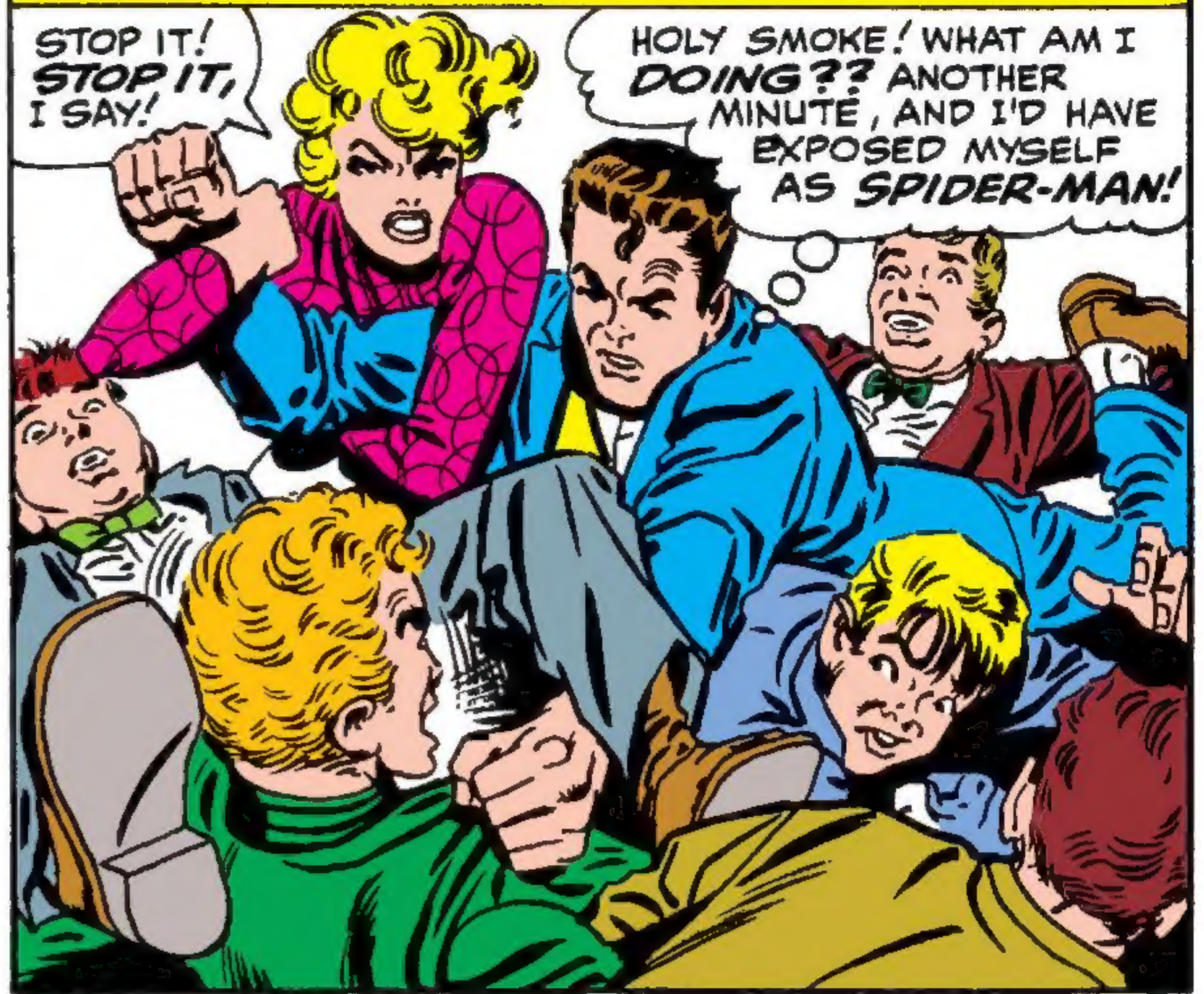
WHAT COULD HAVE COME OVER HIM!?



BUT SUDDENLY, A SHARP FEMALE VOICE RINGS OUT, AS PETER PARKER'S RAGE FADES AWAY BEFORE HE CAN FULLY APPLY HIS AWESOME SPIDER STRENGTH!

STOP IT! STOP IT, I SAY!

HOLY SMOKE! WHAT AM I DOING?? ANOTHER MINUTE, AND I'D HAVE EXPOSED MYSELF AS SPIDER-MAN!



STAY OUT OF THIS, LIZ! I'M SICK OF YOU ALWAYS PROTECTING THAT MILK-SOP!

PROTECTING HIM? IT LOOKED TO ME LIKE HE WAS DOING FINE, AGAINST ALL YOU BULLIES!

IT'S LUCKY LIZ CAME BY WHEN SHE DID! LUCKY FOR THEM, THAT IS!



IT'S OKAY, LIZ! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! THAT BIRDBRAIN DOESN'T SCARE ME!

I KNEW IT! YOU'VE BECOME AS BAD AS FLASH IS! AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE DIFFERENT!

HE WILL BE, WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH HIM!



I'M THROUGH WITH BOTH OF YOU! I NEVER WANT TO SEE EITHER OF YOU AGAIN!

DON'T WORRY, LIZ! I'LL FIX IT SO YOU WON'T SEE PARKER ANY MORE!

FIRST BETTY IS MAD AT ME, AND NOW LIZ! WHAT A DON JUAN I AM!



HEY, PARKER! THE PRINCIPAL WANTS TO SEE YOU ... ON THE DOUBLE! YOU'RE IN FOR IT NOW!

BOY! MR. DAVIS MUST HAVE SEEN PARKER SWINGING AT US! HE THINKS HE STARTED IT!

THAT MEANS WE'RE IN THE CLEAR! DAVIS MAY EVEN EXPEL HIM!



HAH! WHAT A CRYIN' SHAME! WE SURE WILL MISS PUNY PARKER AROUND HERE!

WHERE YOU GOIN', FLASH?

I'LL SEE IF I CAN FIND LIZ! I'LL TURN ON THE OL' CHARM FOR HER!



A FEW MINUTES LATER ...

I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING OUTSIDE THE DOOR! PARKER TOOK THE WHOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIMSELF! HE DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO BLAME ANY OF US!

I'LL LET YOU KNOW MY DECISION LATER, PARKER!

IT WAS MY FAULT! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER!





BUT, NO SOONER HAS PETER LEFT, WHEN...

MR. DAVIS, I THINK YOU BETTER HEAR THE WHOLE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED... PARKER REALLY WASN'T TO BLAME...

I'M GLAD TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, MY BOY! COME IN... WE'LL HAVE A TALK!

BUT, ONCE AGAIN OUR SCENE CHANGES, AS WE SEE THE REAPPEARANCE OF A NOW-FAMILIAR FIGURE...

LOOK OUT, YOU GUYS! IT'S THE **CRIME-MASTER!**

YOU DARED TO OPENLY DEFY MY WARNING, AND SO I'LL NOW MAKE AN **EXAMPLE** OF YOU FOR THE **OTHER GANGS!**

HE WINGED THE **BOSS!** WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE! HE'S A **CRACK SHOT!**

NONE OF YOU HAVE THE BRAINS, OR THE SKILL, OR THE NERVE TO STOP ME! AND NOW, I'LL GIVE YOU ONE LAST CHANCE! WILL YOU ACCEPT **ME** AS THE KINGPIN OF THE CITY'S GANG'S, OR...?

YEAH... **SURE!** SURE! ANYTHING YOU SAY, **CRIME-MASTER!**

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

NOW, WITH **YOU** UNDER MY THUMB, THE OTHERS WILL ALL FALL INTO LINE!

AND, ACROSS TOWN, IN THE CITY'S MOST EXCLUSIVE MEN'S CLUB...

JAMESON, HOW CAN YOU AFFORD TO SPEND SO MUCH TIME AWAY FROM YOUR NEWSPAPER, WHEN THERE'S SO MUCH CRIME ACTIVITY IN THE HEADLINES?

DON'T FORGET, AS THE LARGEST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER IN TOWN, I HAVE ALL SORTS OF INSIDE INFORMATION! THE EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE UNDERWORLD ARE ALL BEING CAREFULLY COVERED BY MY STAFF!

TELL ME SOMETHING, J.J.... DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO THE **GREEN GOBLIN** IS?

HOW ABOUT THE **CRIME-MASTER?** ARE THEY THE SAME MAN? EVERYBODY'S TRYING TO GUESS!

SORRY, GENTLEMEN! I CANNOT REVEAL THE INSIDE STORY YET! BUT KEEP READING "THE BUGLE"! I'LL HAVE A BIG **EXPOSE** SOON!

ONE OF YOUR REPORTERS IS THIS FELLOW **FOSWELL**, WHO USED TO BE A BIG TIME CRIMINAL HIMSELF! IS IT WISE FOR YOU TO EMPLOY SUCH A NOTORIOUS CHARACTER?

I THINK YOU DESERVE **CREDIT** FOR GIVING AN EX-CONVICT A SECOND CHANCE!

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT ME, GENTLEMEN... I'M ALL **HEART!** AND BESIDES, **FOSWELL** WORKS LIKE A **DOG!**



BUT NOW, BEFORE YOU START THINKING THE NAME OF OUR MAGAZINE SHOULD BE CHANGED TO "THE LIFE OF JONAH JAMESON", LET'S RETURN TO OUR SWINGIN' TEEN-AGE HERO...!

SAY! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS BEFORE? THAT'S JUST WHAT I NEED...IN THE WINDOW OF THIS COSTUME SHOP!

YOU SAY YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THAT **SPIDER-MAN** OUTFIT? I CAN LET YOU HAVE IT CHEAP! THERE'S NOT MUCH CALL FOR IT LATELY!

BUT, IF YOU WANT SOME-THING **REALLY** POPULAR, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THAT **FRANKEN-STEIN** SUIT? THEY'RE SELLING LIKE HOTCAKES!

HOTCAKES I CAN GET IN A **RESTAURANT**!

OKAY, SON... SUIT YOURSELF! ...NO PUN INTENDED! SHALL I WRAP IT UP, OR WILL YOU WEAR IT OUT?

WRAP IT UP! I WANT TO GIVE IT TO MY DEN MOTHER AS A HOUSE-WARMING GIFT!

MINUTES LATER, THE GLIB-TONGUED ADVENTURER CHANGES INTO HIS NEW COSTUME ON A LONELY ROOFTOP...

LUCKILY THEY MAKE THESE THINGS OUT OF THOSE NEW STRETCH FABRICS NOWADAYS, SO ONE SIZE FITS ALMOST ANY-BODY!

AND NOW, AT LAST I CAN PICK UP THE SIGNALS FROM MY LITTLE GIZMO AND INVESTIGATE FREDERICK FOSWELL!

WOW-EEE! IT SURE FEELS GOOD TO BE BACK IN ACTION AGAIN! I FEEL LIKE AN **EAGLE** WHO'S BEEN LET OUT OF A CAGE!

I MIGHT AS WELL FACE IT... BEING **SPIDER-MAN** IS JUST PLAIN **HABIT-FORMING**! IT'S LIKE GOING OUT WITH GIRLS!... I CAN'T GIVE IT UP!

BUT THEN... UH-OH! IT LOOKS LIKE THEY PUT TOO MUCH **STRETCH** IN THESE STRETCH-FABRICS! I'M STARTING TO COME APART!

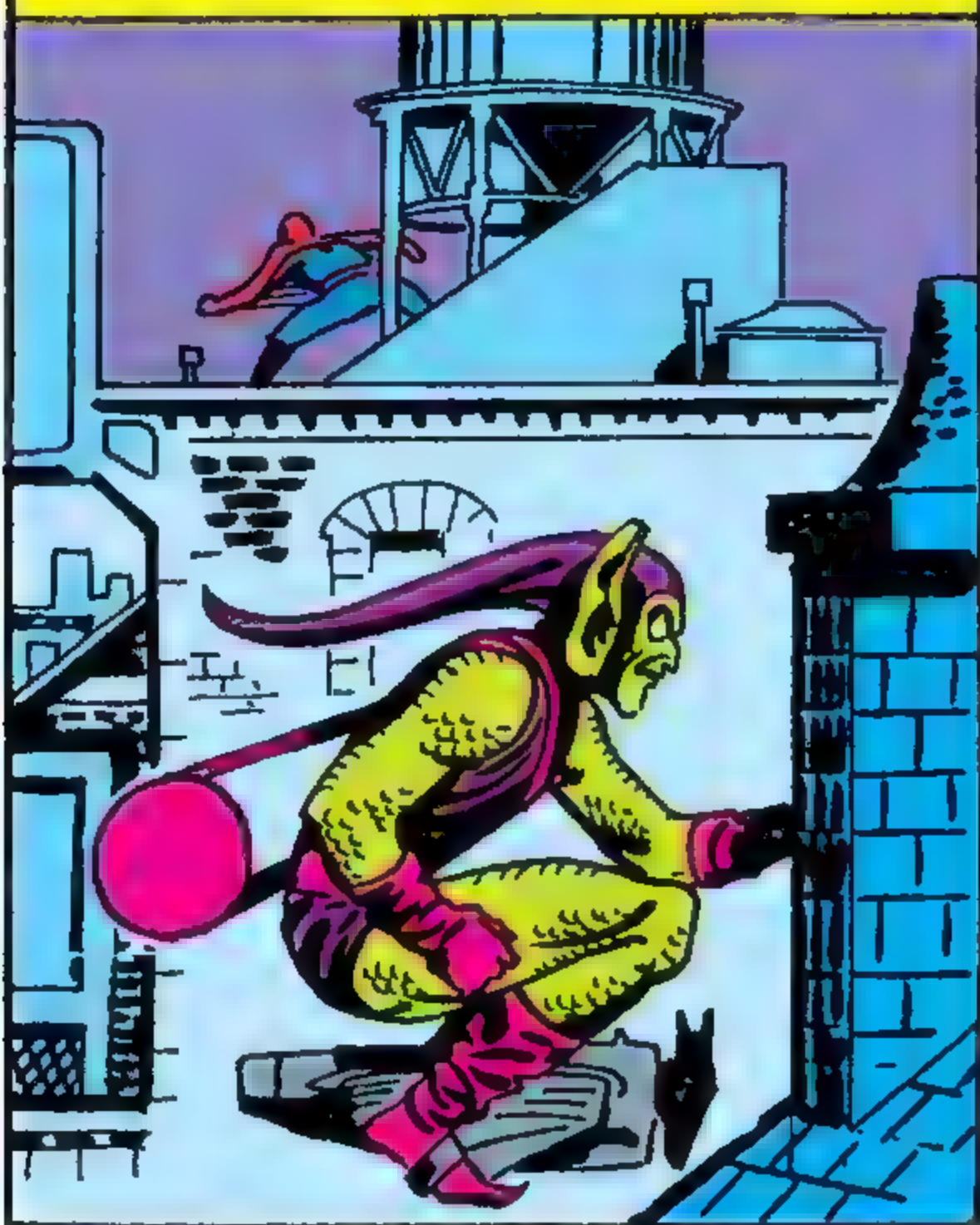
THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR BEING THE ONLY SUPER-HERO IN TOWN WHO'S NUTTY ENOUGH TO RUN AROUND IN A SECOND-HAND COSTUME!

WELL, I'LL JUST USE SOME OF MY **WEBBING** TO HOLD THE BLAMED THING IN PLACE!

THERE! THAT OUGHTTA DO IT!



MINUTES LATER, TWO COLORFUL FIGURES PASS EACH OTHER IN THE NIGHT, NEITHER REALIZING HOW CLOSE HE IS TO THE OTHER...



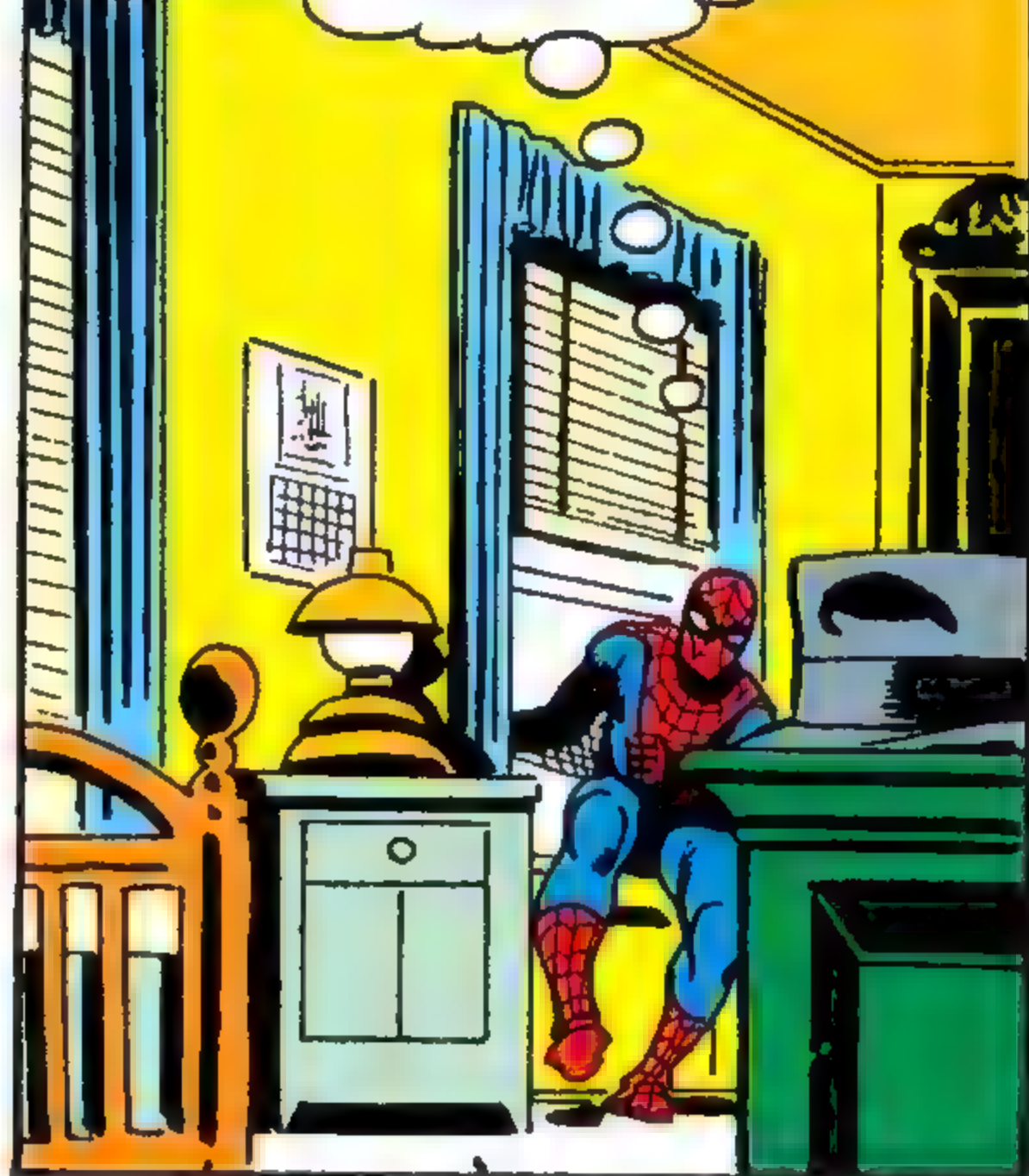
AND FINALLY...

THIS IS WHERE MY GIZMO'S SIGNAL IS COMING FROM! FOSWELL MUST BE SOMEWHERE IN THAT APARTMENT!

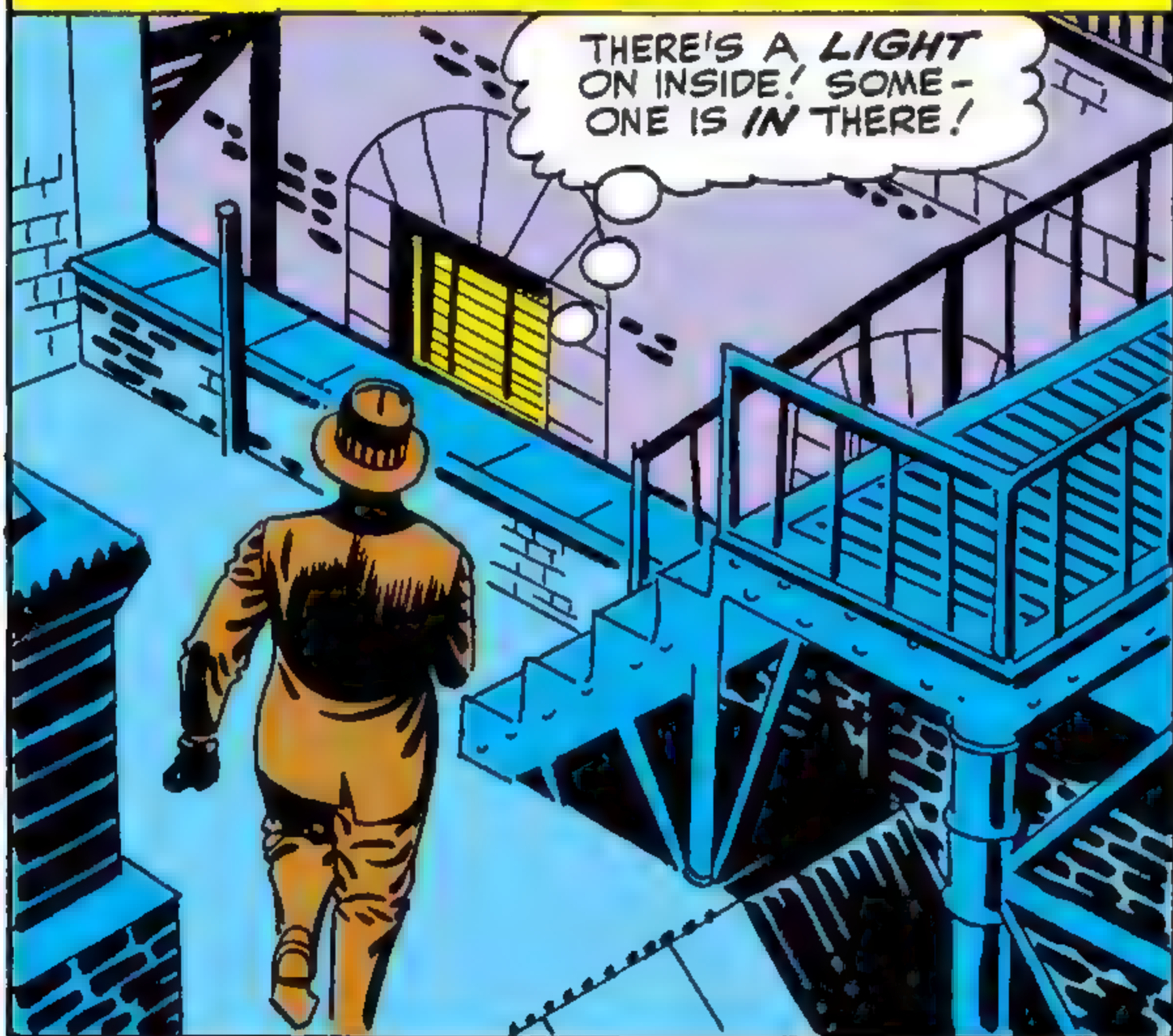


AND YET, THERE'S NO SIGN OF LIFE! I'D BETTER INVESTIGATE!

THERE'S HIS HAT... AND THE REST OF HIS CLOTHES, BUT NO FOSWELL! THE PLACE IS **EMPTY!** I'D BETTER LOOK AROUND WHILE I HAVE THE CHANCE!



BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, **ANOTHER** FORM APPROACHES THE APARTMENT, FROM A DIFFERENT DIRECTION...



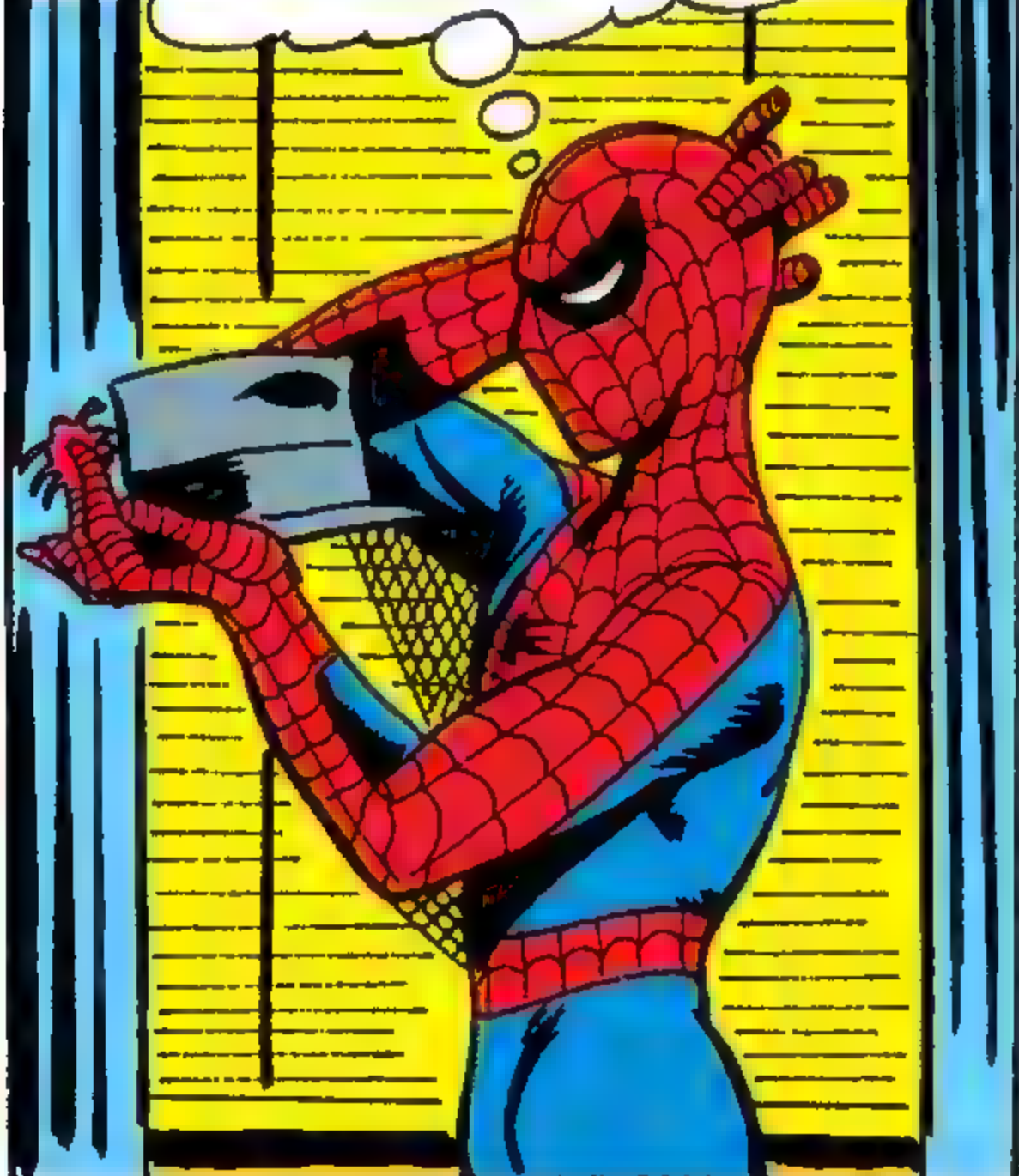
THERE'S A **LIGHT** ON INSIDE! SOMEONE IS **IN THERE!**

SO LONG AS HE LIVES, HE'LL BE A **CONSTANT THREAT** TO ME! **UNLESS...**

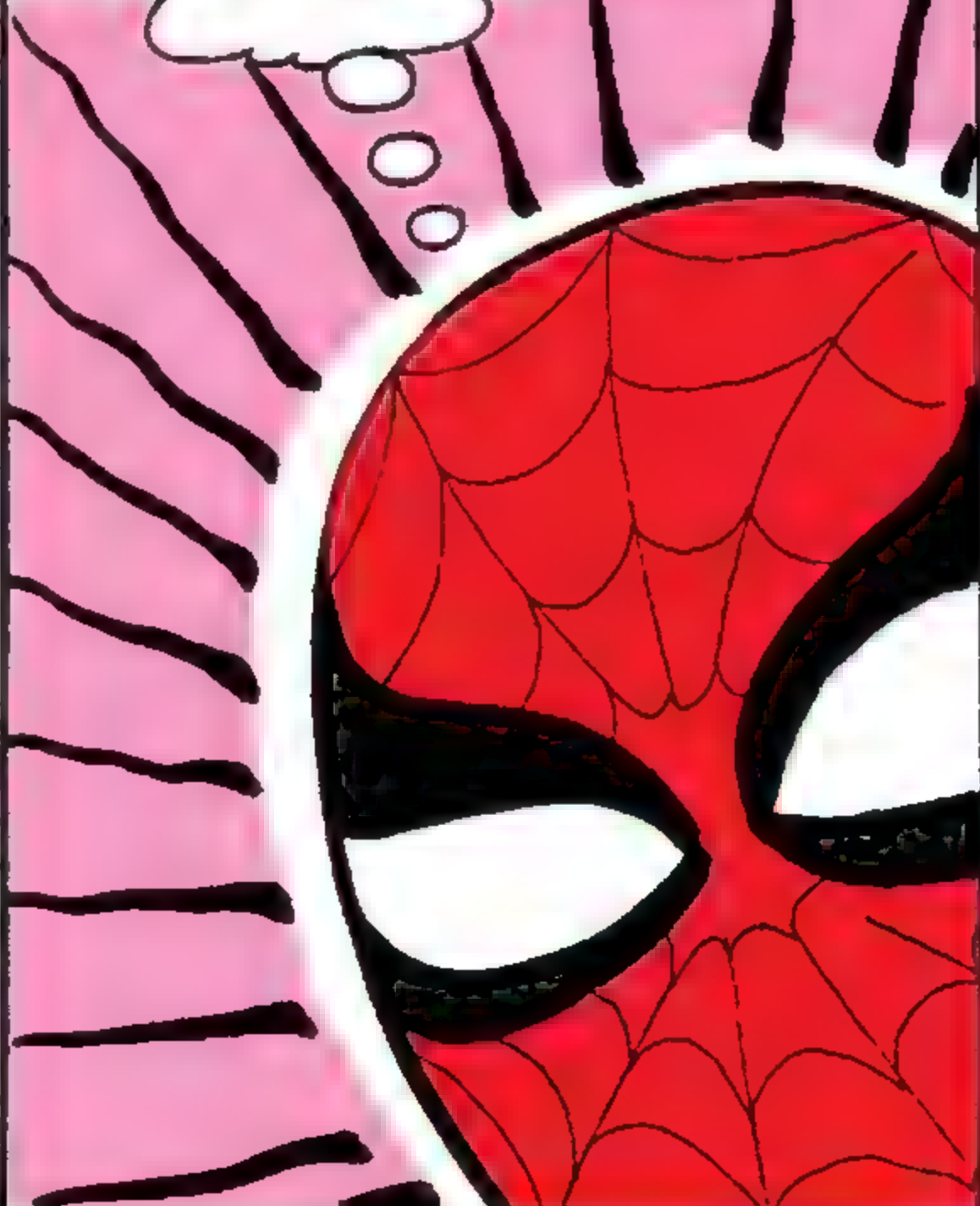
**UNLESS I ELIMINATE HIM!**



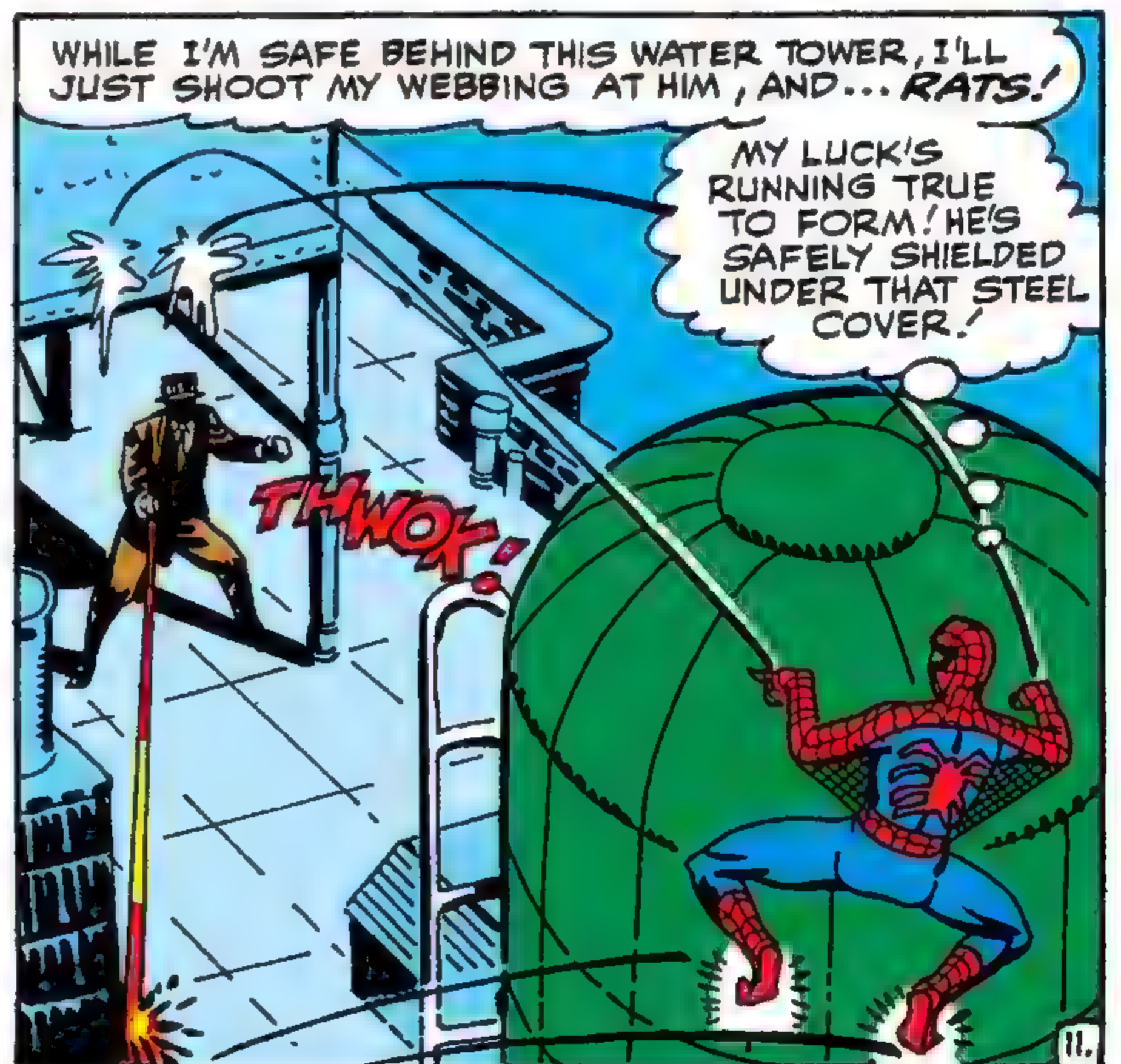
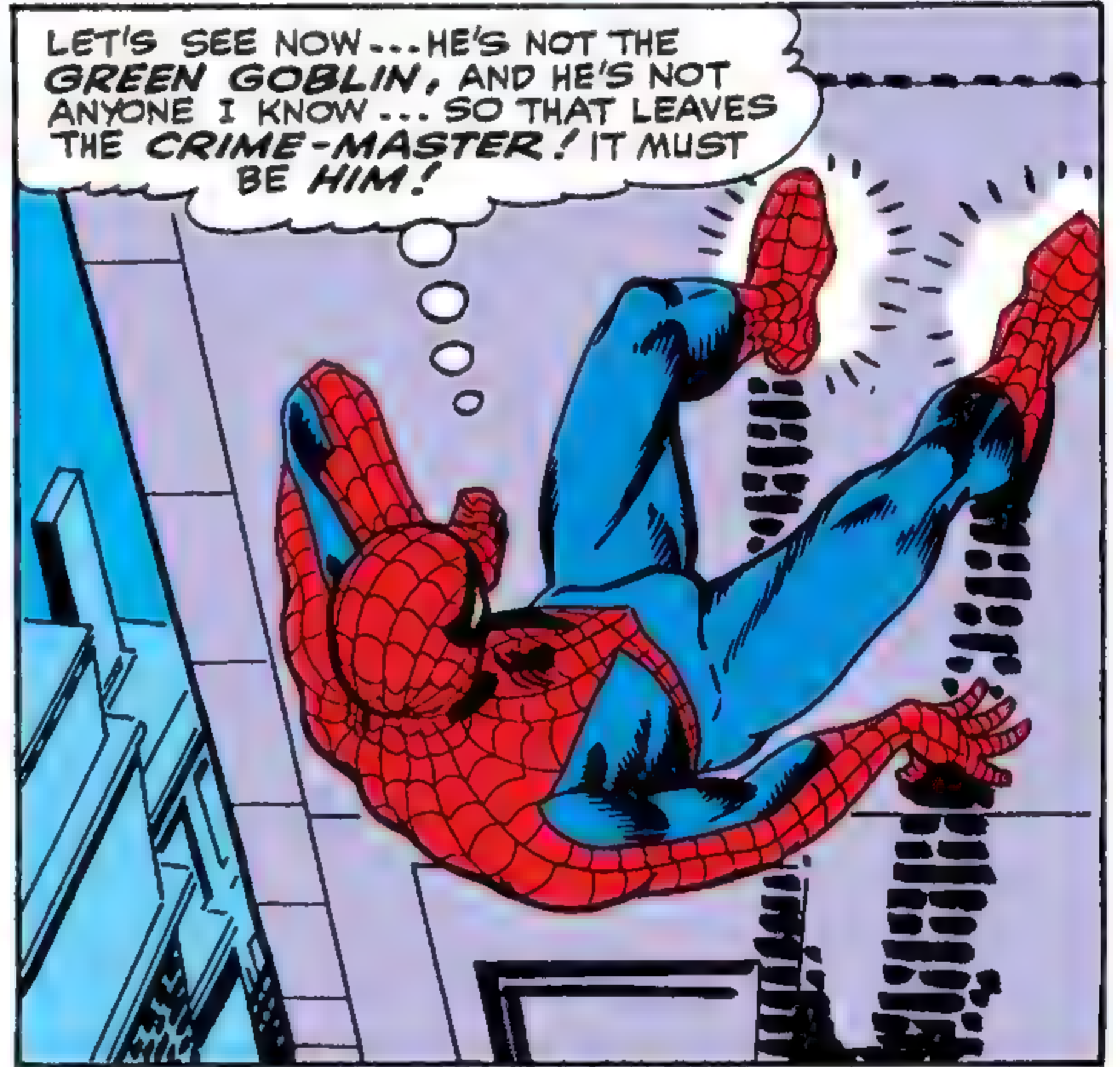
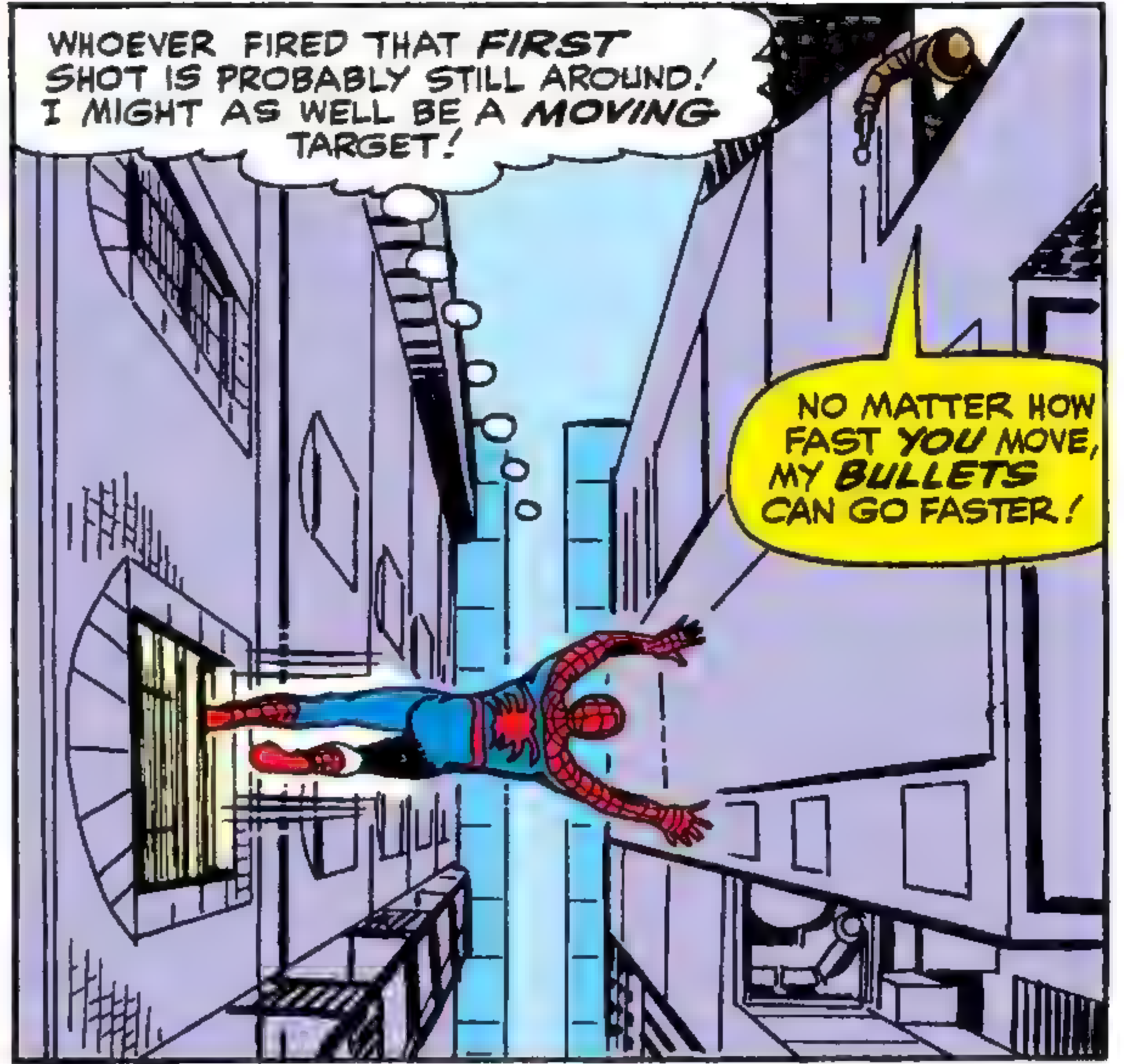
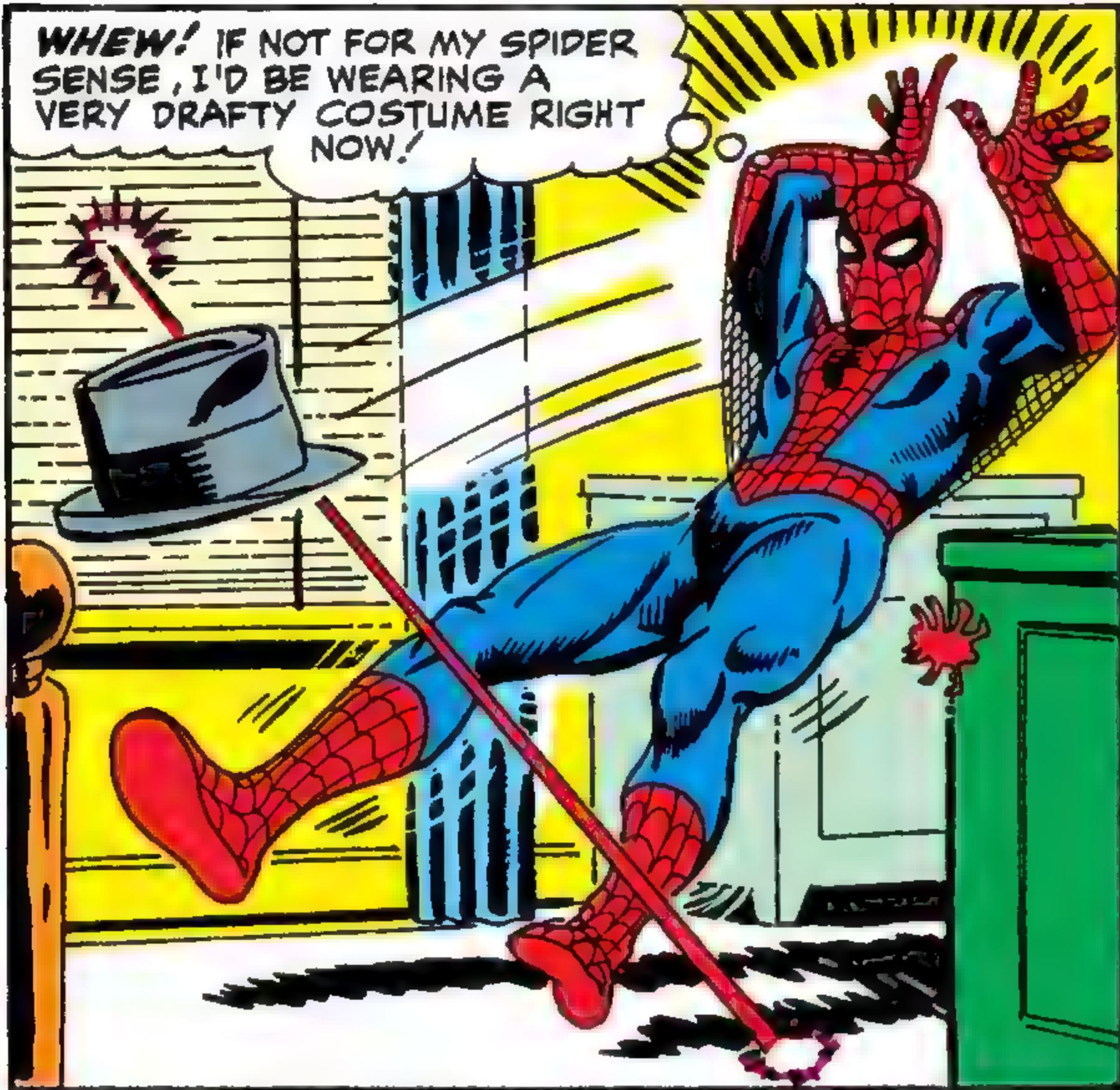
HMM, I WONDER... DID FOSWELL CHANGE HIS CLOTHES BECAUSE HE KNEW MY ELECTRONIC TRACER GIZMO WAS HIDDEN IN HIS HAT? OR, WAS THERE **ANOTHER** REASON??



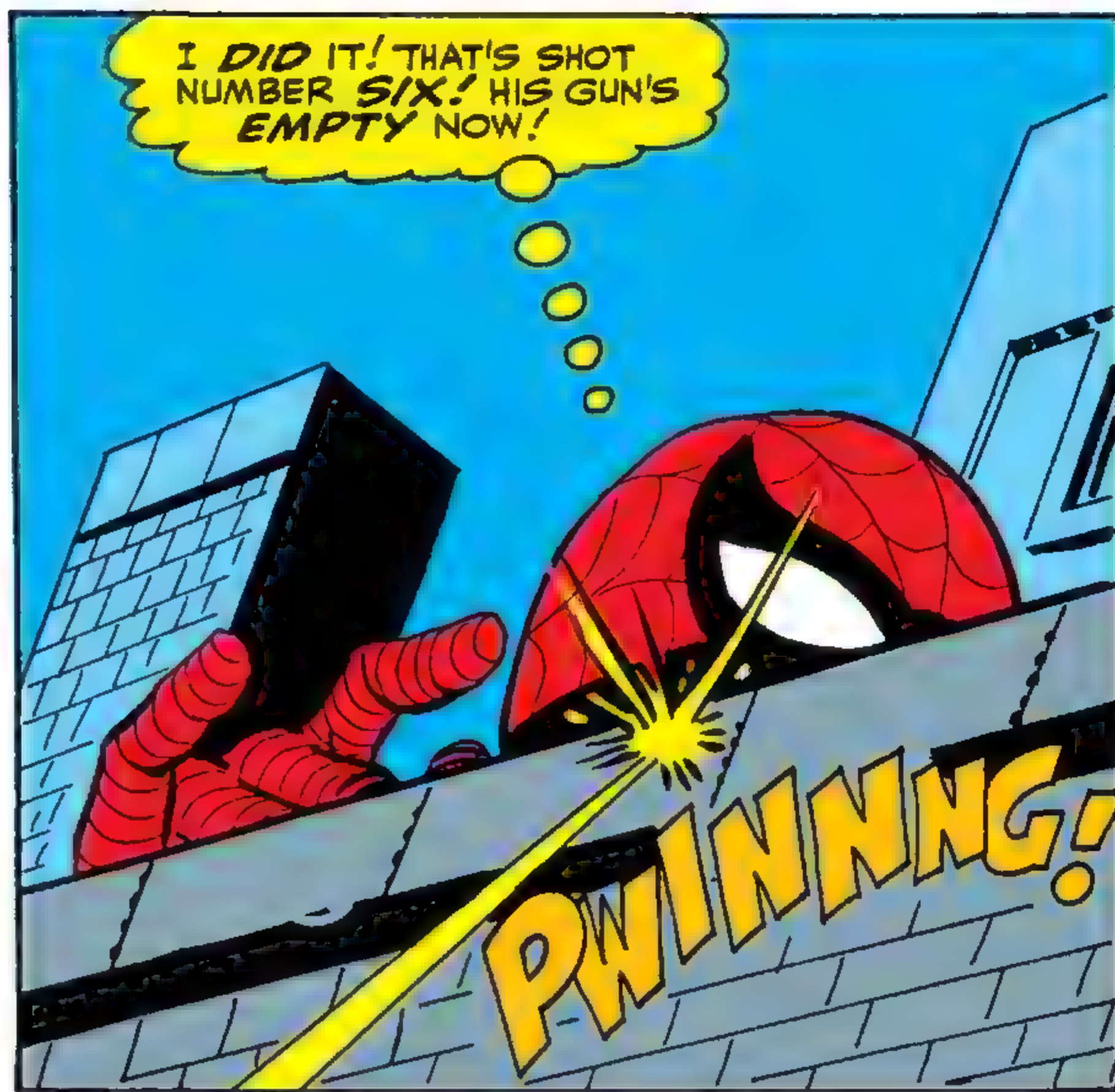
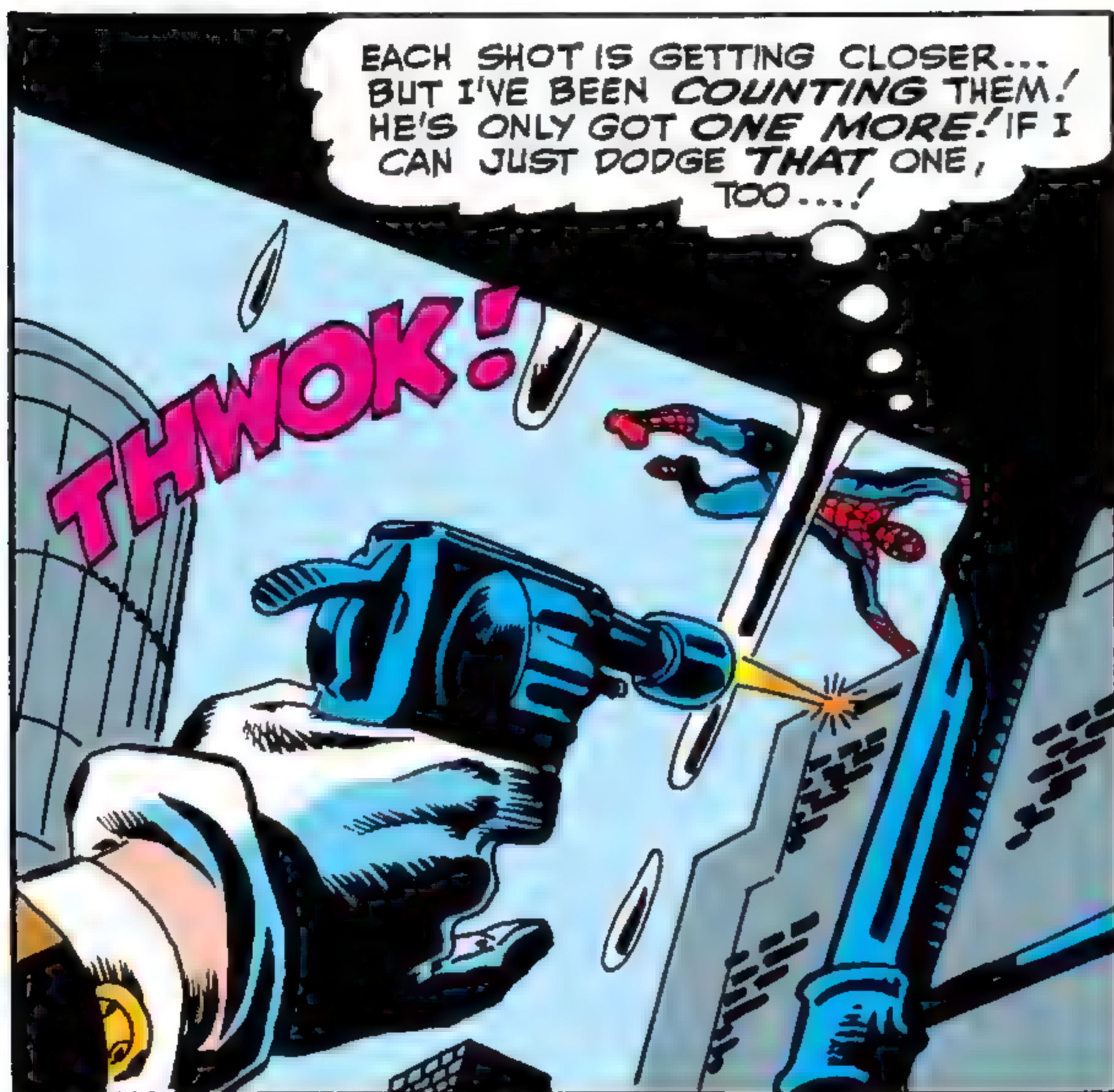
**WAIT A MINUTE!** MY **SPIDER-SENSE** IS TINGLING! DANGER IS NEAR... **VERY NEAR!!**



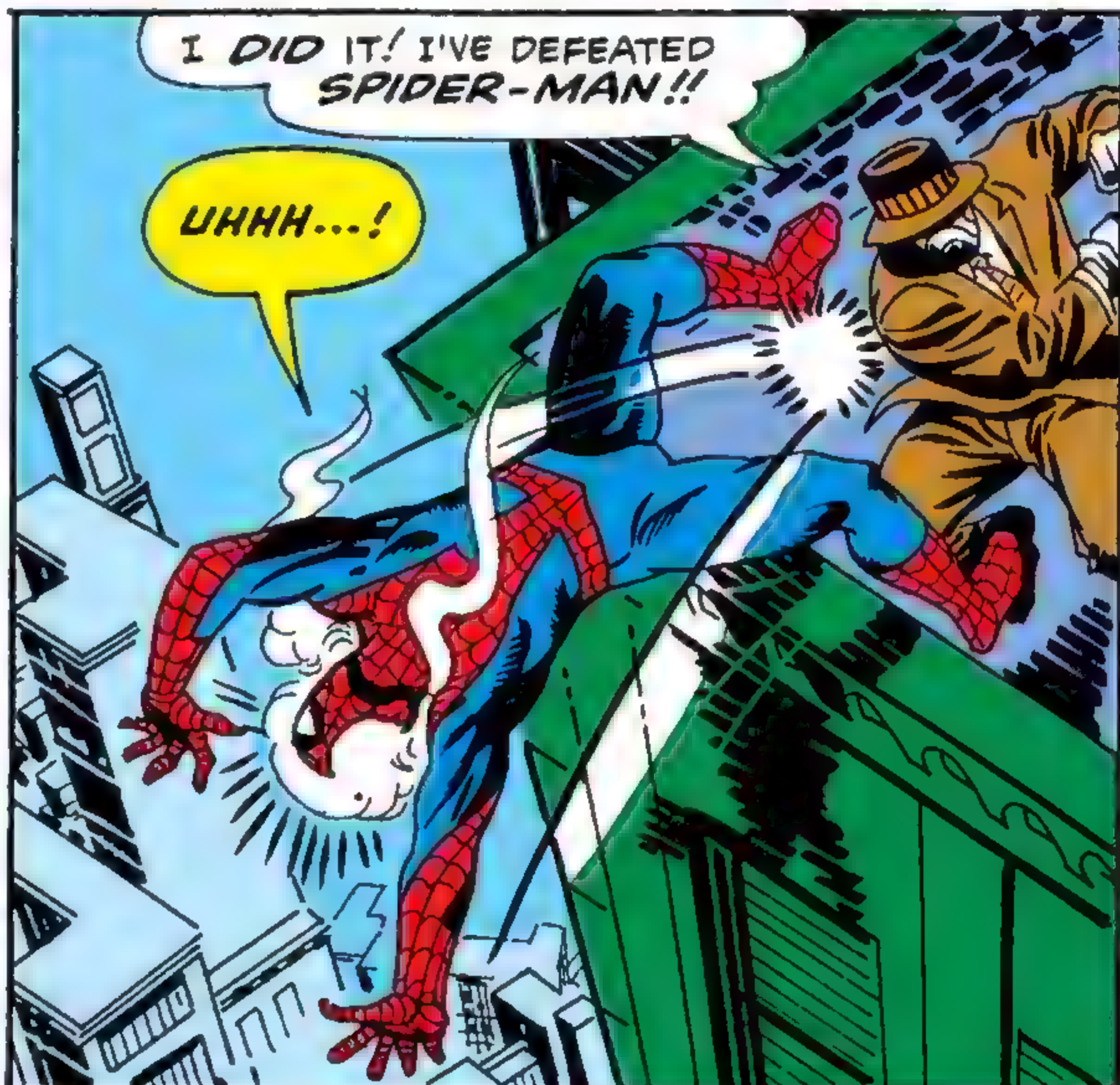




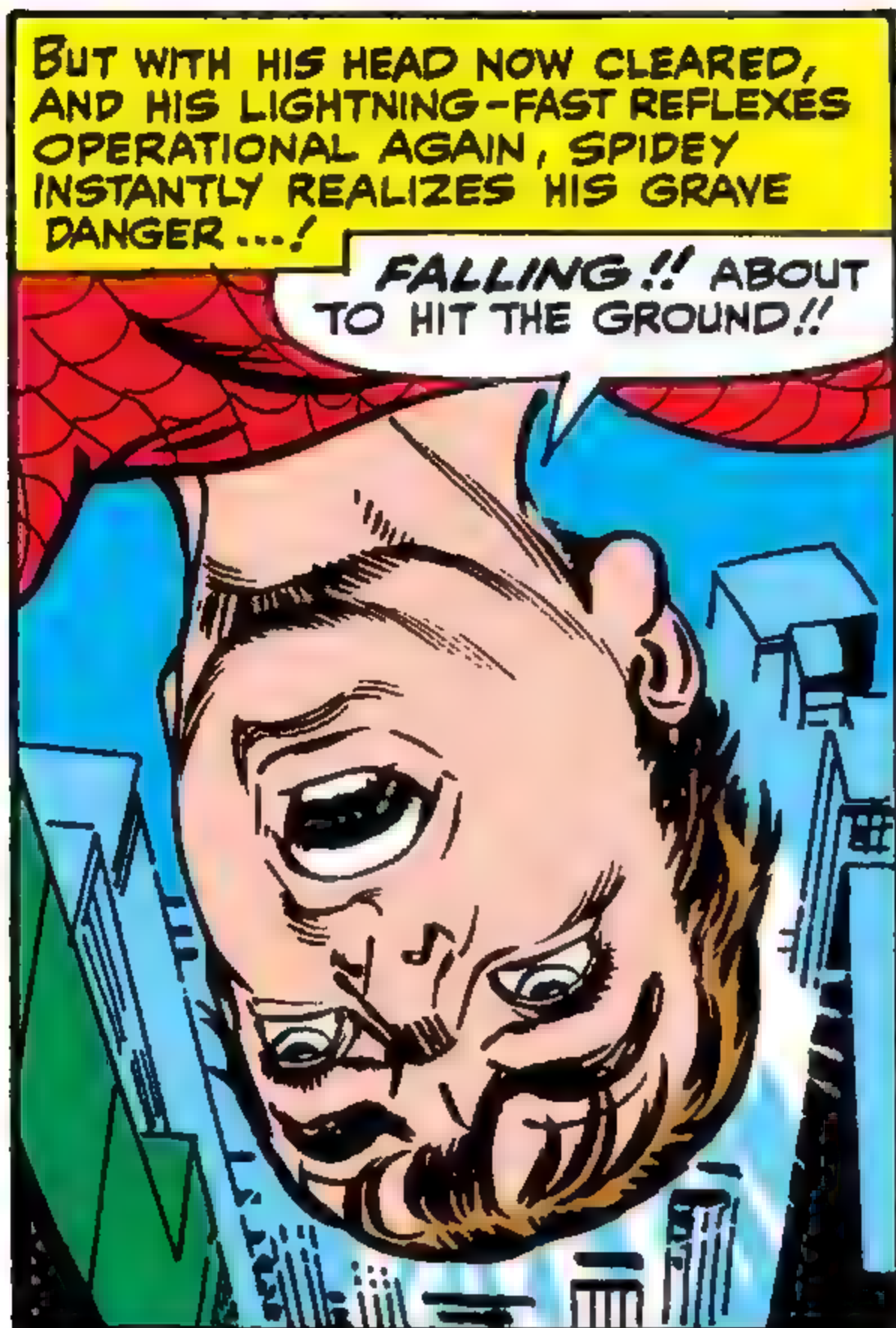




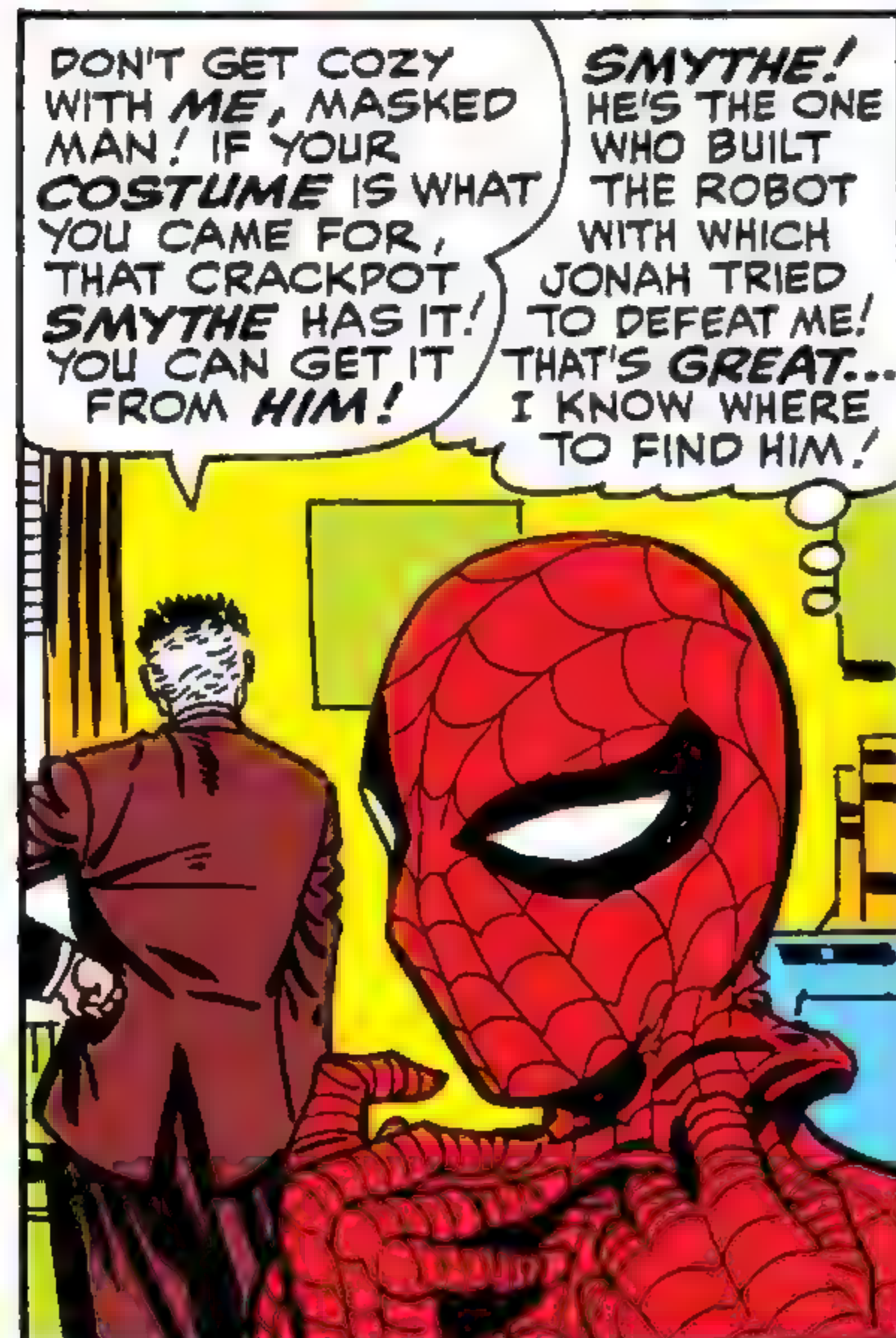
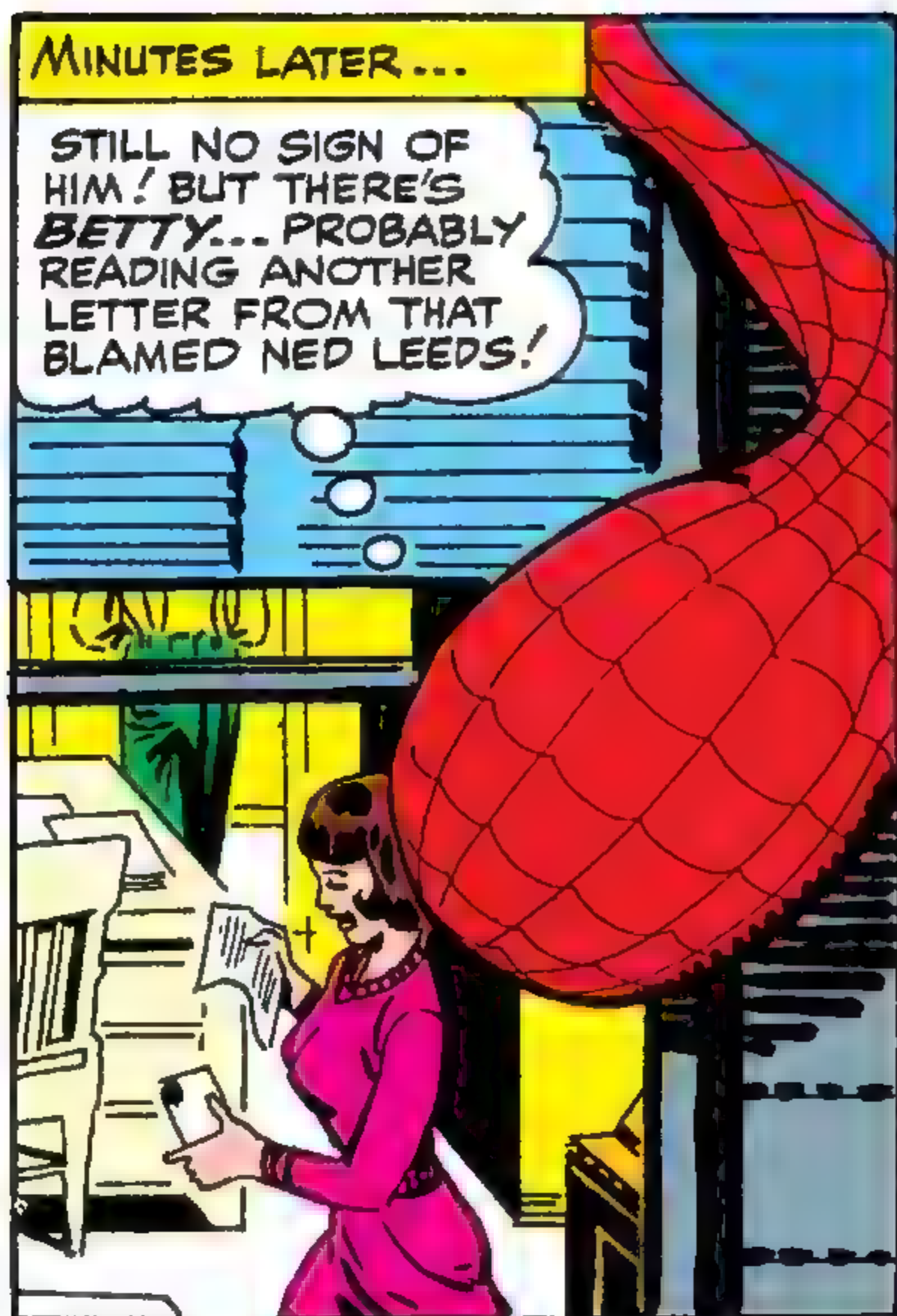




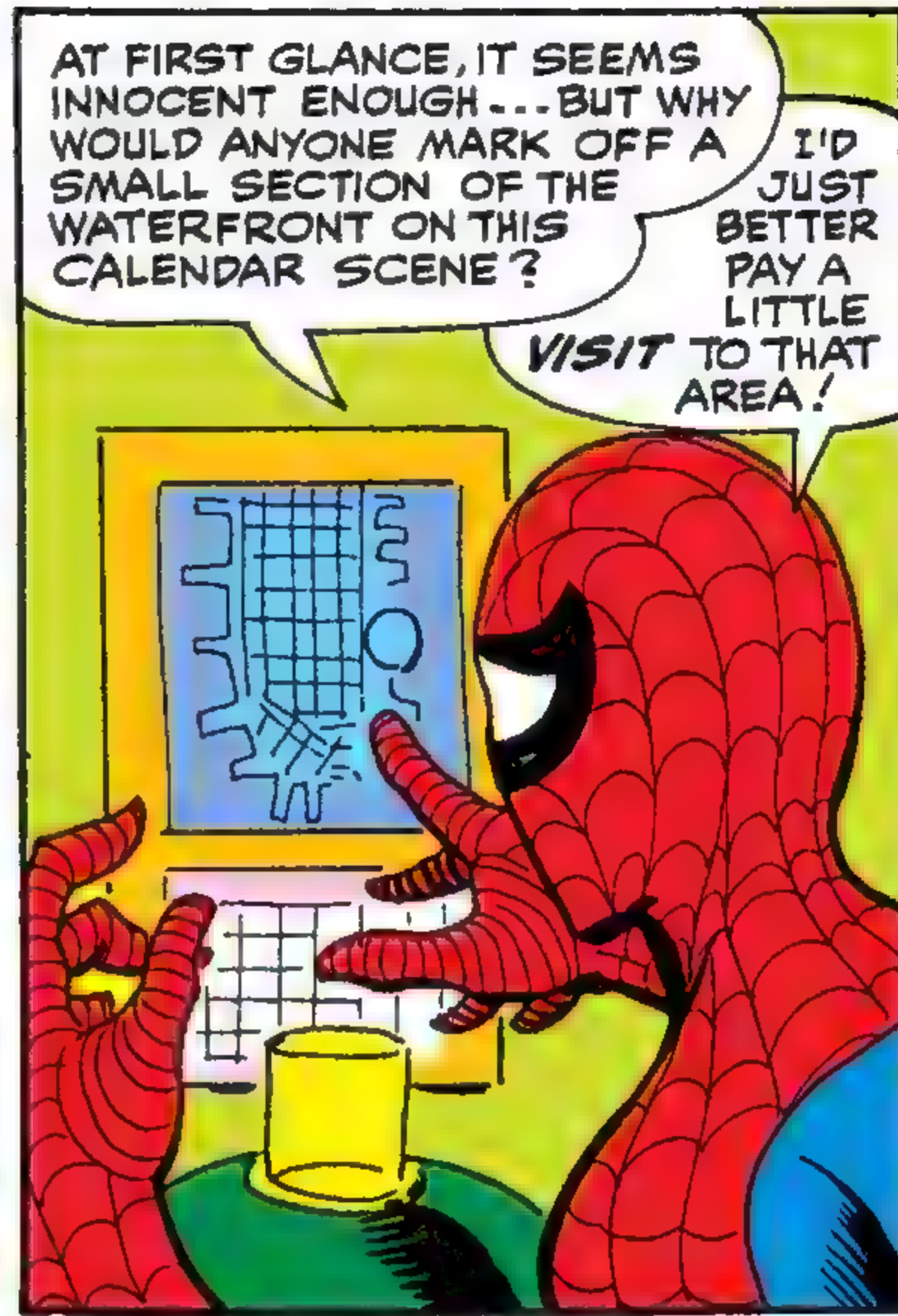
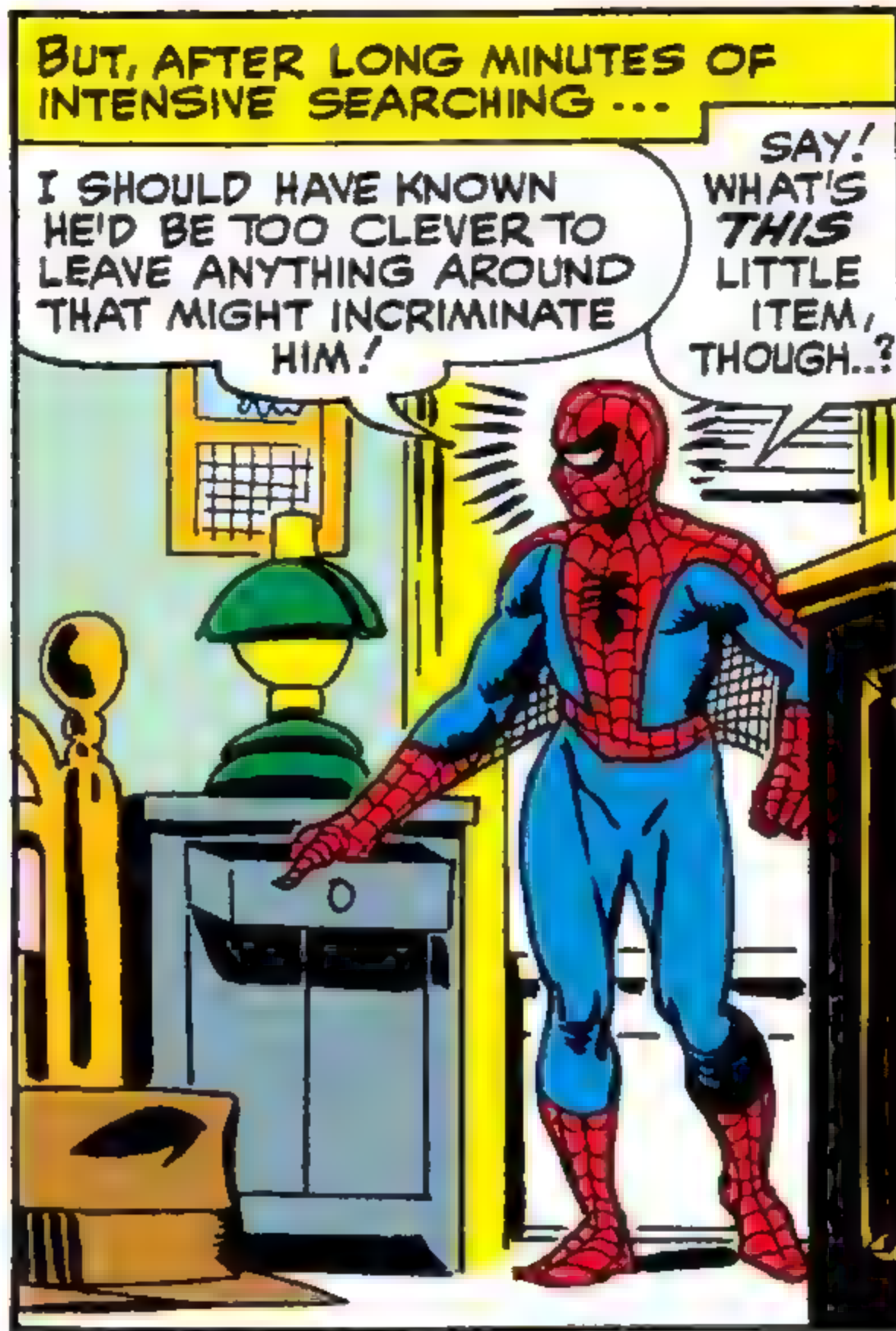








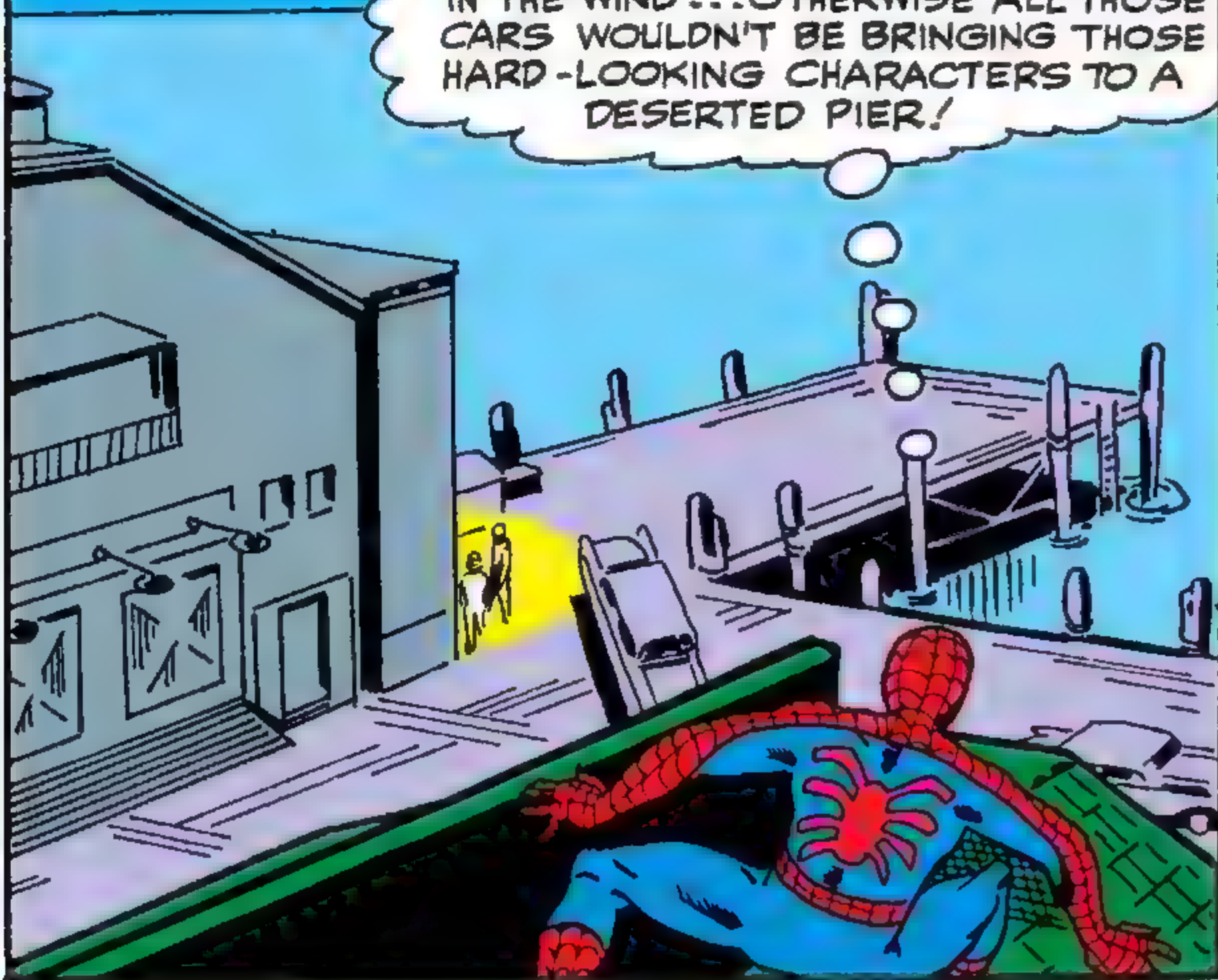






AT THE WATERFRONT, A SHORT TIME LATER, WE NEAR OUR STIRRING CLIMAX...

LOOKS LIKE MY HUNCH WAS CORRECT! SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY IN THE WIND... OTHERWISE ALL THOSE CARS WOULDN'T BE BRINGING THOSE HARD-LOOKING CHARACTERS TO A DESERTED PIER!



I BROUGHT SOME OF MY MUSCLE MEN, JUST IN CASE! WHAT'S THE DELAY? ISN'T THE CRIME-MASTER HERE YET?

NO! HE'LL SHOW UP AFTER EVERYONE'S ARRIVED! JUST GO INSIDE AND WAIT WITH THE OTHER GUYS!



BUT ANOTHER CONFERENCE IS SECRETLY TAKING PLACE NEARBY...

YOU CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT ME! THE WHOLE PLAN WAS ORIGINALLY MINE! IF YOU TRY TO SQUEEZE ME OUT, I'LL ...!

YOU'LL DO NOTHING! NOT SO LONG AS I HAVE THE PROOF OF YOUR REAL IDENTITY LOCKED IN A SAFE DEPOSIT VAULT!



IF I'M EVER FOUND DEAD, THE POLICE WILL OPEN THAT VAULT AND LEARN WHO... HEY! WHA...??

YOU CHEAP DOUBLE-CROSSER! THE GREEN GOBLIN DOESN'T HAVE TO RESORT TO MURDER! THERE ARE OTHER WAYS...!!



HE WAS HIDING A GUN BEHIND HIS BACK!

WELL, THE SMOKEY EXHAUST FROM MY JET GLIDER WILL COVER ME SO THAT HE WON'T KNOW WHERE TO SHOOT!

BLAST YOU! NO MATTER HOW TRICKY YOU ARE, A BULLET CAN STILL GET RID OF YOU FOREVER!

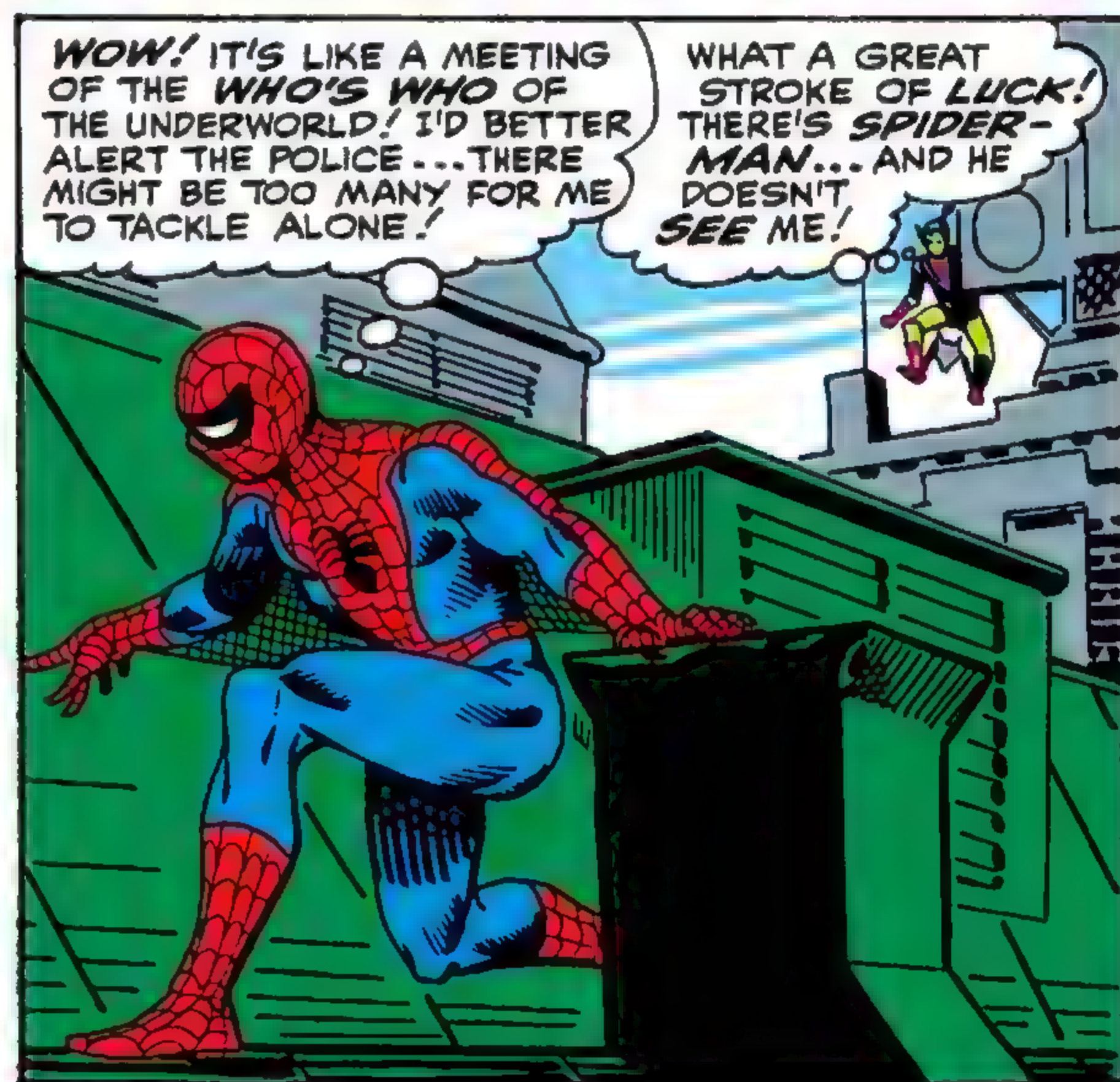


HE'S THROWING STUN BOMBS, BUT I'M IN LUCK... HIS OWN SMOKE IS HIDING ME FROM HIM, ALSO!

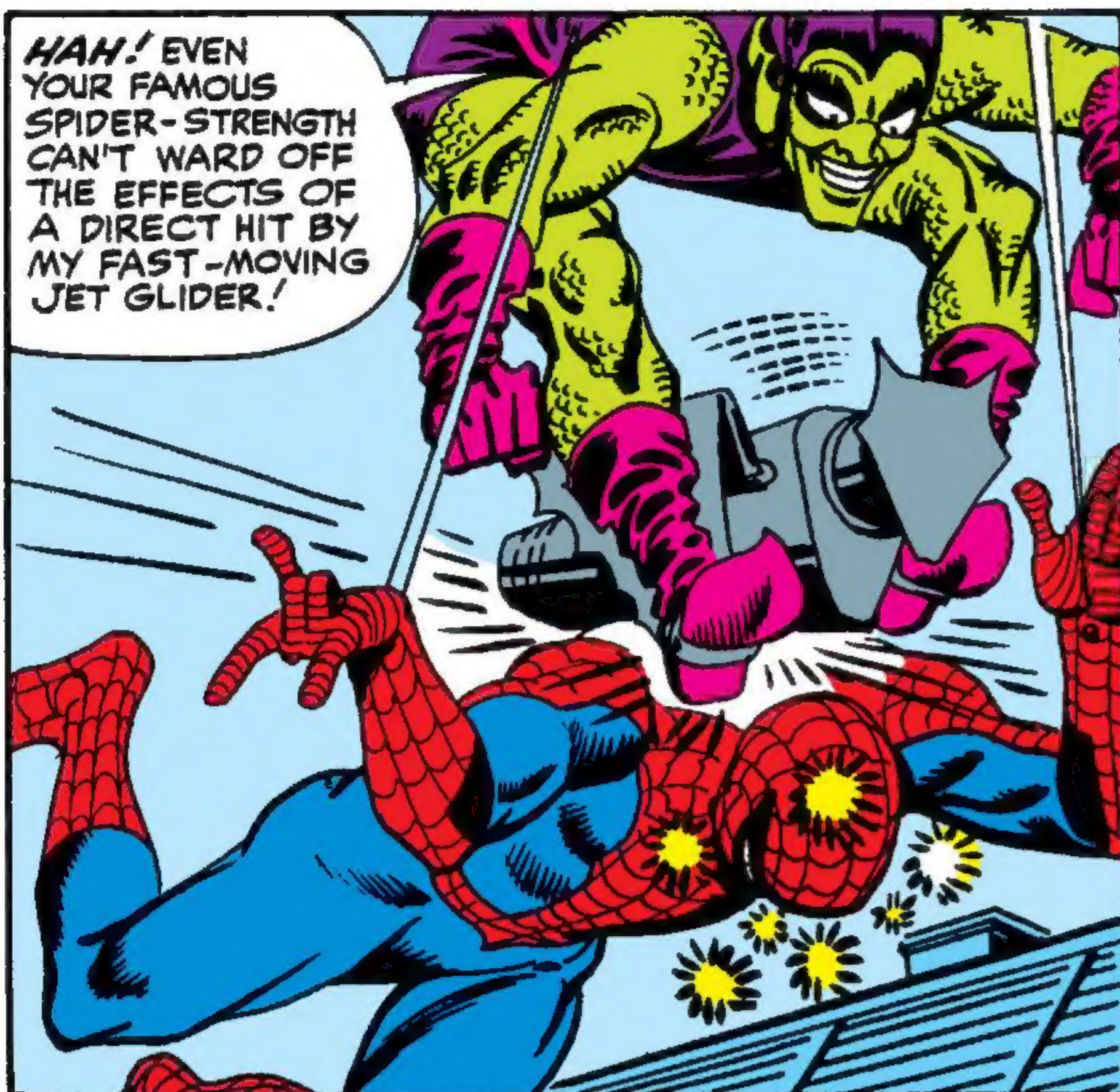
I'D BETTER HOLD OFF! IF I SHOULD ACCIDENTALLY KILL HIM, MY SECRET WILL BE MADE PUBLIC!









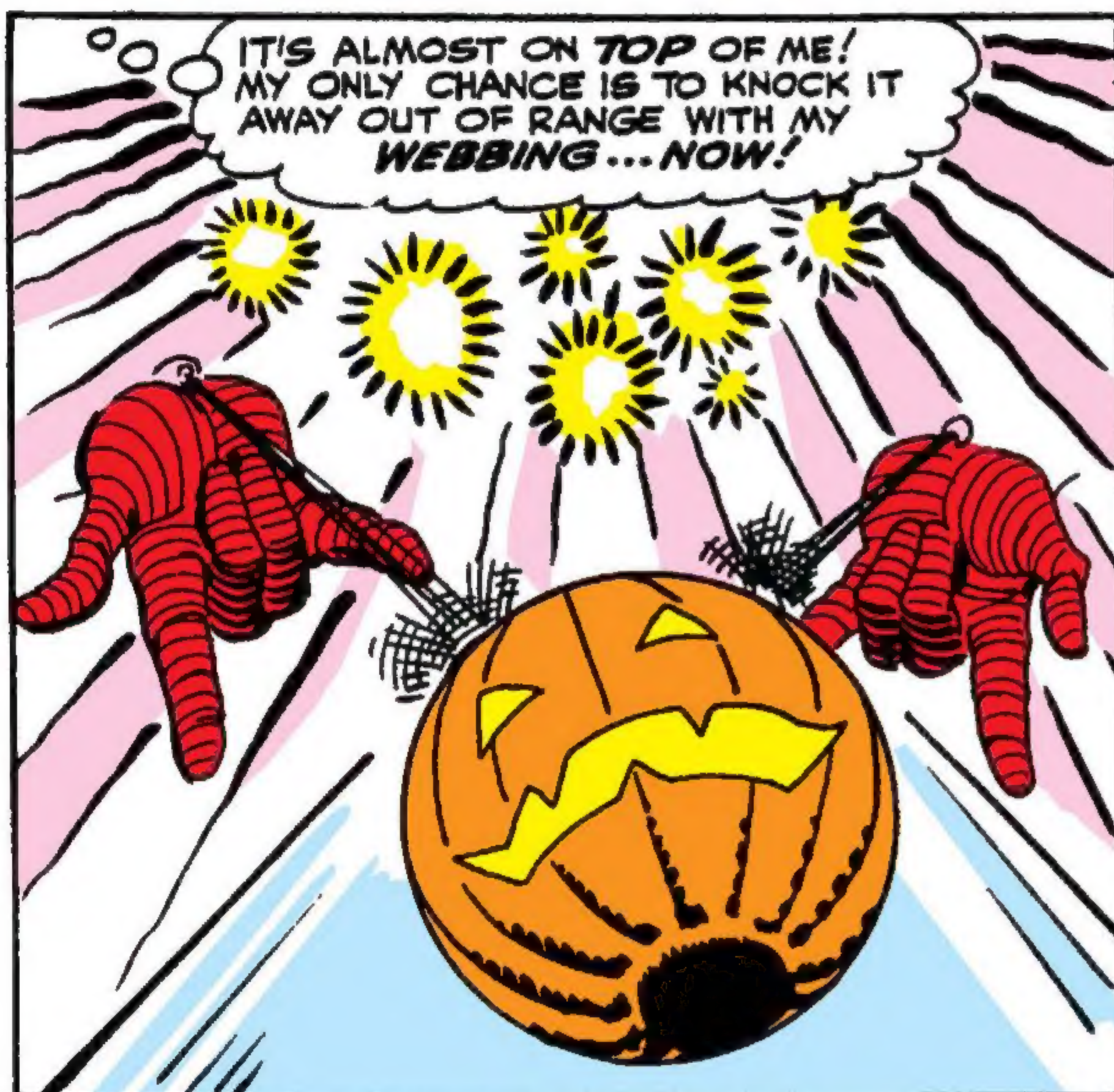


HAH! EVEN YOUR FAMOUS SPIDER-STRENGTH CAN'T WARD OFF THE EFFECTS OF A DIRECT HIT BY MY FAST-MOVING JET GLIDER!



NOW, WHILE YOU'RE GROGGY, I'LL FINISH YOU OFF WITH ONE CAREFULLY-THROWN **STUN BOMB**...!

HAVE TO HANG ON!! HAVE TO USE SPIDER-SENSE TO KEEP TRACK OF STUN BOMB...!



IT'S ALMOST ON **TOP** OF ME! MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO KNOCK IT AWAY OUT OF RANGE WITH MY **WEBBING**... NOW!



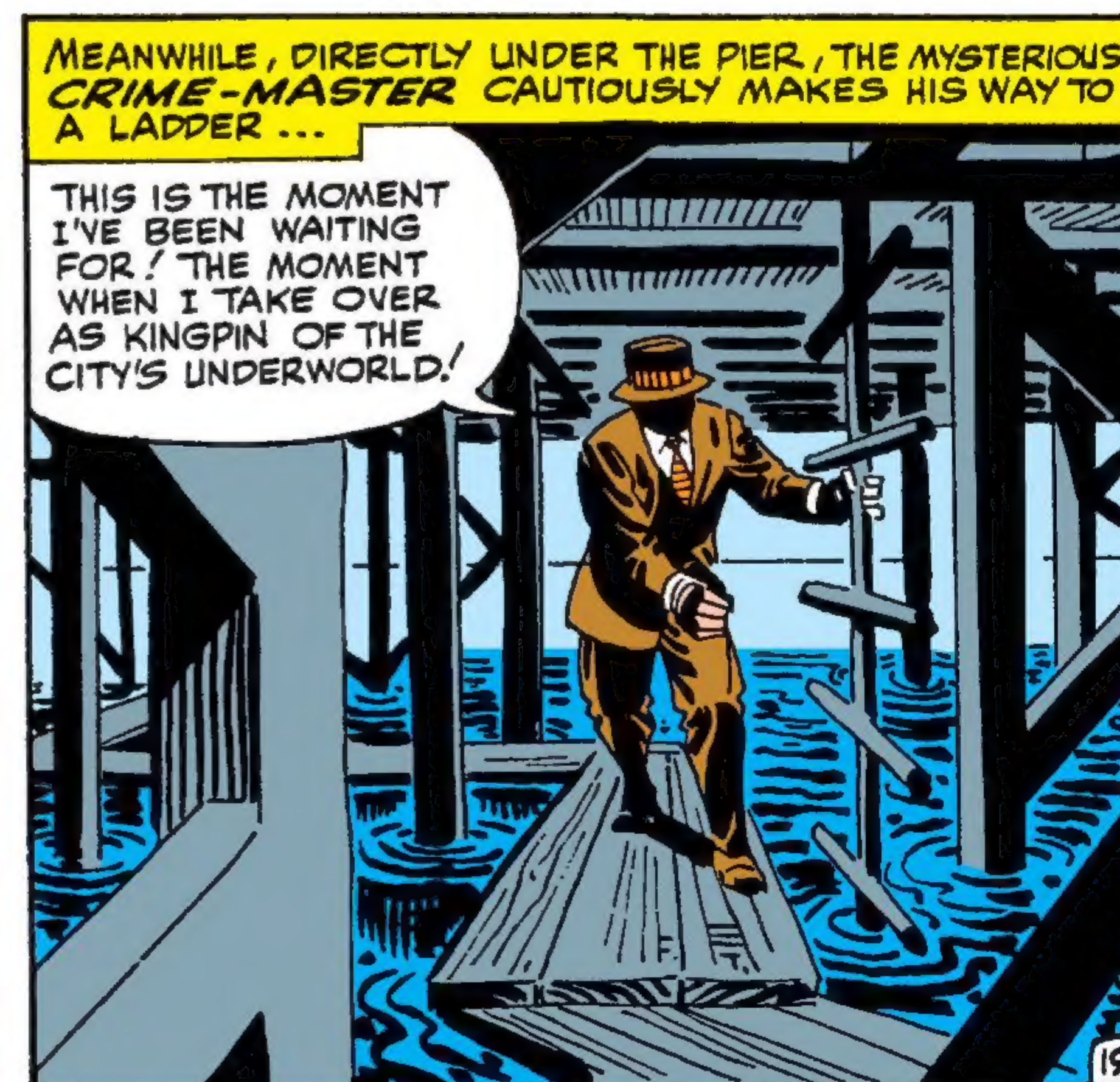
BUT, ALTHOUGH THE AMAZING ADVENTURER'S QUICK THINKING SUCCEEDS IN SAVING HIM FROM A FATAL DIRECT HIT, THERE ISN'T TIME TO HURL THE BOMB FAR ENOUGH AWAY BEFORE IT EXPLODES....!

OHHH...!



I'VE BEATEN HIM AT **LAST**! BUT, HIS HEADPIECE WON'T COME OFF! I WANT TO **UNMASK** HIM, BUT IT'S STUCK TOO TIGHT!

WELL, THERE'LL BE TIME FOR THAT **LATER**! RIGHT NOW, I'VE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DO!



MEANWHILE, DIRECTLY UNDER THE PIER, THE MYSTERIOUS **CRIME-MASTER** CAUTIOUSLY MAKES HIS WAY TO A LADDER...

THIS IS THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! THE MOMENT WHEN I TAKE OVER AS **KINGPIN** OF THE CITY'S UNDERWORLD!





EVERYONE IS HERE! EVERY MOB LEADER IN THE AREA! THEY'VE ALL COME TO ACCLAIM *ME* AS THEIR LEADER!



AND NOW, FOR MY LONG-AWAITED MOMENT OF TRIUMPH!

HEY, PIPE DOWN, YOU GUYS! CLAM UP, ALL OF YOU! THE **CRIME-MASTER** IS HERE! HE'S GONNA TELL US ABOUT HIS PLANS!



THE FIRST THING I WANT TO SAY IS ... FROM NOW ON, *I'M* THE BOSS! THE **ONLY** BOSS! AND, IF ANYONE HAS ANY OBJECTIONS, LET HIM SPEAK UP *NOW*!

ALL RIGHT, CRIME-MASTER! *I'M* SPEAKING UP! THIS IS THE **GREEN GOBLIN**, SAYING THAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO HAVE THE **SHORTEST** REIGN ON RECORD!!

LOOK! IT'S THE GOBLIN ... WITH **SPIDER-MAN**!

HE CAPTURED 'IM! WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN NEXT??!



### NEXT ISSUE:

THE SECRET OF FREDERICK FOSWELL WILL BE REVEALED, AS YOU THRILL TO ONE OF THE GREATEST **BATTLE ROYALS** OF ALL! SO, JOIN US AGAIN FOR **SPIDER-MAN** # 27... AND DON'T FORGET YOUR WEBBING!





# THE SPIDER'S WEB

—Even though you think you've got the whole thing figured out, we want to warn you! Stan and Steve are a lot trickier than you think! So don't be too quick to make the obvious deduction as to who the Crime-Master really is! (Same goes for Gobby, of course.) Anyway, it'll all come out in the wash next issue, and till then, let's dip into the ol' Marvel mailsack...

Dear Stan and Steve,

I just heard the M.M.M.S. record. It was pretty funny. But what happened to Steve Ditko?! He I especially wanted to hear! He wasn't even in the MARVEL TALES ANNUAL! First I couldn't see him and now I could not get to hear him. You know, I'm beginning to wonder about Ditko! Are you trying to hide something from us? Hm-m-m, a man who draws weird, a man who draws only unusual stories...fantasy like Dr. Strange...I wonder? Does he have two heads? Or four arms? Or three eyes? Is this why we never see him? Maybe he's from another planet and cannot speak our language well. Is this why we couldn't hear him on that record? Maybe he is a super-intelligent gorilla you found who can draw well? Maybe he is six inches tall? Is this why you have not revealed him to the world? I must say that Ditko is really becoming a mystery! Who is he?? What is he?? Anyway, in closing, I say—we want Ditko!  
Vincent C. Stuart, II, 1438 W. Euclid  
Detroit, Mich. 48206

Vince, he's even a mystery to the gang in the bullpen! He *seems* to be an ordinary Joe—except for that silly habit of his of walking on the ceiling! So, you say you want him, eh? Well, as far as we're concerned, if you can find him, he's yours!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Your latest edition of SPIDER-MAN was excellent—Spider-Man is my favorite hero of all the heroes in all the comic magazines. This is due to the fact that web-head is more realistic than the rest and that he usually battles only earthling criminals. When the fans write, you should have the courtesy to answer them and not consider the letters a big joke. I know you say in the Announcement Section that you were only fooling and that you take our letters seriously, but the questions asked in the letters should and must be answered so that we, the buyers of your mags, can be informed. I hope you consider this letter for I'm sure the majority of readers agree with me.

Barry Kaiman, 115 So. 54th St.  
Omaha, Nebr. 68132

Aw, c'mon Barry! If you want serious answers you can always write to your local newspaper. We take our stories pretty seriously, but after finishing one, we kinda like to let our hair down and have a few laughs with you guys and gals. Anyway, we don't always know the answers to the questions we receive, which is why we parry so many of them with a corny gag—it's our sneaky way of wiggling out of a tight spot!

Dear Stan and Steve,

With your kind permission may I say a few words concerning your magazines. I feel I can do this because I have been reading them for over eight years. I would like to tell you what I like and dislike about your comics. Your paper, inking and lettering are not as good as your competitors in the same line of work as yours. Your plots are very good, though, and so are some of your villains—such as Dr. Doom, Namor, Zemo, Dr. Octopus, Sandman, Electro, Mysterio, Rama-Tut, and Molecule Man. Why do you ruin a good hero or villain by introducing atomic rays and gamma rays in their origins. Why can't your

teams work better together? Your best issues to date are FF #s 4, 5, 12, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 21, and SPIDER-MAN #s 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, and 12. Please do not get me wrong—I never miss a single issue of any of your comics, but I still think your competitors are superior to yours. I will expect a sane and serious answer from you on this matter.

Joseph M. Pappalardo, 163 Himrod St.  
Brooklyn, 21, N. Y.

Aw, c'mon, Joe! How serious can we be with a guy who thinks our competitors' mags are better? We'll bet Aunt May would say: "That dear boy doesn't need seriousness—he needs sympathy!"

## THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

**FANTASTIC FOUR #40:** If you read no other magazine all month, you must read this one! It's the thriller you've been waiting for—"The Battle of The Baxter Building!", in which the fabulous F.F. wages a no-holds-barred free-for-all against the most dangerous villain of all time—Doctor Doom! It's like WOW!

**AVENGERS #17:** When a mag is this good, it's almost a shame to say anything about it! This one has everything! A brand new line-up of Avengers! Captain America more heroic than ever before! And, to top it all off, the sensational theme is: "The Search for The Hulk!" How great can a comic mag get!

**X-MEN #11:** Another shocker from the House of Ideas! This one was specially produced in answer to many of your earnest requests, and it finally presents the end of the evil mutants! Also, wait till you meet The Stranger!

**DAREDEVIL #8:** For those of you who've wondered what we could possibly come up with to top our previous sensational D.D. thrillers, here's your answer—in spades! D.D. battles the most off-beat villain of the month (ANY month) when he tackles the startling, stupifying Stiltman! You'll have a ball!

**THOR #117:** This unforgettable epic is entitled: "Into The Blaze Of Battle!"—and you'd better hang onto your seat when you read it! It features Thor's quest for an enchanted packet—a quest which brings him face-to-face with tragedy on an Asiatic battlefield! It's drenched with glory!

**STRANGE TALES #134:** This month's Torch and Thing thriller features a long-awaited surprise! The title will give you the idea: "Enter—the Watcher!" As for Dr. Strange, he's up to his amulet in all kinds of magical mishaps! This ish is for you!

**SUSPENSE #67:** Iron Man fights six super-foes in this one and even finds time to bring Happy back to the fold! As for Captain America, he's out to destroy his own nation, under the hypnotic control of the Red Skull! If there's a more exciting mag around, we'll eat it!

**ASTONISH #69:** Giant-Man finally catches up with the Human Top, and their battle is a joy to behold! As for the incredible Hulk, it's so full of strange surprises that the only thing we'll tell now is that ol' green skin is winning every popularity poll in town hands down!

**SGT. FURY #19:** Those of you who were shaken up by the death of Pamela Hawley last ish, (and that includes 'most everybody) won't want to miss "An Eye For An Eye" in which Nick Fury meets up with the man responsible for Pam's death! It's stark, gripping drama as only Marvel can present it!

Dear Stan and Steve,

As soon as I bought issue #22 I just had to write you



about the cover even before reading the story. I've been reading mags since I was only six—now I'm eighteen and never have I seen a mag without the hero on the cover. The way you had the Clown and his Masters of Menace shrieking in fear upon seeing the spider signal in that weird background was "A plus" in originality. You see, Spider-Man is totally different than any other super-hero—he is the type of super-hero that appears better in gloomy, nightmarish surroundings. All your covers dealing with white backgrounds just cheapen the cover and even ruin the story inside. Keep up the good work like #22. (Doc Doom should invent a wide-awake pill so Stan can work on more super-hero mags. 'Nuff said!)

Richard O'Baid, 106 E. 2nd St.  
Brooklyn 18, N. Y.

Stan's got enough wake-up pills, Dick. The only trouble is, he's so busy writing that he hasn't time to take them!

—By the way, don't forget to let us know what you think of our new M.M.M.S. page! We plan to keep it running in every issue, with a new surprise of some sort each month! (And the biggest surprise of all will be if we can keep coming up with a different gimmick every ish!) Anyway, if you haven't become a Merry Marcher yet you might as well break down and do it now. We don't want you to get a guilt complex every time you read our club page!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I was just looking at SPIDER-MAN #22 and I notice that Peter Parker was wearing a blue suit. Now don't get me wrong—I'm a marvelous Marvel madman just like the next guy and I don't like to knock your mags. But I just looked back at some Spidey comics like issues #1 through #22 and it seems that in every one of them Petey is wearing a blue suit!! I don't mean to cramp your style, but I think Parker should have at least one or two new suits! Two more things—the tie and the vest—they look good but I don't know anyone who would wear a tie and vest everywhere they go, do you??!!

Steve Keyes, 3077 Donnybrook Lane  
Costa Mesa, Calif.

Boy! As if we didn't have enough trouble with our covers, or stories, and the way Steverino draws feet! Now some fanatic takes umbrage at poor Petey's clothes! Tell you what, S.K., we'll forward your letter to the fashion editor at MILLIE THE MODEL mag and see what *she* says! And another thing—Pete *does* have new suits! Can we help it if he only buys *blue* ones?

—SCOOP: SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #2 will be on sale sometime in July! More info next ish! But, this much we can tell you—it's gonna be worth waiting for!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I just finished SPIDER-MAN #22 and I have to admit that the so-called "Masters of Menace" were the weakest and most unimpressive group that Spidey has ever fought. The Clown was dull and very uncrafty, as the first page says. All he did was occupy the crowd to divert their attention. The Great Gambonno's were fairly interesting, but they, too, were rather unoriginal. (They did, though, handle Spidey quite skillfully on page 12.) Cannonball was not too good because his name implies that he would be shot from a cannon as he was in issue #16. In the new issue he would have been an utter flop if not for his simple steel helmet which enabled him to do things like smash down the gallery door and knock out J.J.J. As for Princess Python, all I can say is that she is the most useless, charmless super-villain that I have ever seen in a Marvel comic. All she did was to grab Spidey and hold him briefly. Her pet python did all the other work. Though I must admit that the battle between Spidey and the giant snake was excellent in art. Ringmaster was the most original character in the whole story. I don't think the Masters of Menace should have thrown him out because the group would be much better if he were in it. The sixth panel on page 5 was the most hilarious thing I have seen. Doubtlessly, the unknown person who thinks he can't draw feet is Sparklin' Steve who, incidentally, has always been able to draw feet and hands excellently and should not worry about it. You two are the most capable men in magazine history—

don't let this one mistake get you down. Keep up the good work—and get that cool Green Goblin back soon, please!

Ty Bizony, 370 W. 109 St.  
New York, N. Y. 10025

Glad you mellowed a bit towards the end of your letter, Ty! After what you said about the Masters of Menace, Stan was about to chuck the whole thing and go back to writing Mother Goose!

Dear Stan and Steve,

You may think this is a crazy suggestion but it's really just stupid enough to work! For the past three years you've been kidding your "teen-age" mags and kiddingly saying that PATSY WALKER and MILLIE THE MODEL are the only places you won't find Spidey as a guest star. Well, why make those gals an exception? In this crazy Marvel Age of Comics I can think of nothing wilder than the Torch and Spidey mixing it up with Patsy or Millie! If you don't pull a story like this you're even more insane than I am for suggesting it! See what the other readers think!

Steve Gerber, 1014 Roberts Ct.  
St. Louis 30, Mo.

Never mind what the other readers think, Steve! How would we ever sell the idea to Patsy or Millie?

Dear Stan and Steve,

SPIDER-MAN #23 which I bought today is another mildly great issue. Spider-Man has made famous the "ending in doubt" in recent years—practically all issues of Spidey have it and it has become the expected. How about giving Spidey some definite endings? Don't keep us hanging quite so often—I can't stand the suspense! Ditko's art, as usual, is best at Marvel. Greater uses of the darker colors are in order as they give the stories an aura of mystery. I also purchased issue #3 of MONSTERS TO LAUGH WITH—great, as can be expected from Stan Lee. I have the perfect "steady" for Petey—the Black Widow!

Steven Johnson, 681 Maple St.  
Indiana, Pa.

You're too late, brother Johnson—Rumor hath it that she's carrying the torch for Jonah Jameson!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I really enjoyed SPIDER-MAN #22—"The Clown and his Masters of Menace"—and found it refreshing to see, as a change, an ending where Spidey comes out on top. I agree that you've worn thin the "hard time for Spider-Man" idea. Although, he is my favorite comic character, I've been getting tired of this theme. Well, at any rate, I just thought I'd tell you how entertaining I found #22 to be. I'll be looking for #23 and will be hoping that Spider-Man will win out again.

Dave Szurek, 6328 Perkins St.  
Detroit, Mich. 48210

Uh oh! With an attitude like yours, after you read the ending of *this* ish, we'd better run for the hills!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Well, I'm a nut! I got all that beautiful M.M.M.S. stuff. What I like best of all is your clowning around on that record. The stickers are all right, too, and very sticky. I still didn't get my tongue off the roof of my mouth! Boy, do I have them plastered all over the place! As for the badge, it's o.k. except that the kids keep trying to take it from me! I sure hope you come up with another idea on the club very soon. Also, your comics are okay in my book, too!!

Clarence Spicer, R.D. #2  
Howard, Pa.

Okay?? After all the blood, sweat, and tears that go into each ish, you can only call them okay? A fine Merry Marcher you are, Clar! Let's show a little more enthusiasm, chum, or Spidey may drum you out of the corps!

—This is one time we don't have to put in a big pitch for our next ish! If you don't know by now that it's gonna be a big, special exposé issue, we probably lost you a long time ago! But, for the one or two of you who do plan to join us for SPIDER-MAN #27, we want to say that there's a reasonably good chance that you'll derive a modicum of enjoyment from our offbeat odyssey! In other words, face front! If Irving Forbush can be here, so can you!